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OPINION METER

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INSIDE

NATION



A Pennsylvania woman admits that she has killed more than 20 people.

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WORLD



An Ethiopian co-pilot hijacks a plane and flies it to Geneva.

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LIFE & STYLE



J.K. Rowling is back with a new crime thriller.

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\$110K in Tinian retro pay released on Valentine's Day. PAGE 2
290 attend 5th Annual NMC Health Fair. PAGE 9

Nearly 16K Medicaid clients in 2013

» **Retirees, newborns among new applicants**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The number of people that availed of local Medicaid benefits surged last fiscal year, reaching nearly 16,000 individuals covering the period from Oct. 1, 2012, to Sept. 30, 2013.

Acting program administrator Rose R. Benito told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the program assisted a total of 15,756 clients in fiscal year 2013, with the bulk of the number coming from Saipan.

The program expects to accommodate even more people this fiscal year 2014. As of yesterday, the volume of applications for Medicaid benefits already to

See **MEDICAID** on **Page 4**

SALVAGE OPERATION ►
SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Navy, working alongside federal and local agencies, swim to the grounded *Daiki Maru 7* to attach fuel lines from the beaches of Apra Harbor, Guam, on Feb. 18. Since the Japanese fishing vessel ran aground Feb. 13, salvage crews have removed hazardous materials to help preserve the environment.

U.S. NAVY/MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS TIMOTHY WILSON



Buckingham: Escort service was Fitial's idea

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham took the witness stand yesterday to state that then-governor Benigno R. Fitial provided him the escort service on Aug. 4, 2012, after he called Fitial about a reporter's stakeout at the

hotel where he was staying.

As this developed, Office of the Public Auditor legal counsel George Hasselback and attorney Richard Pierce, counsel for Buckingham, gave their closing arguments yesterday afternoon. Hasselback will make his rebuttal when the bench trial continues today,

See **BUCKINGHAM** on **Page 4**



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), left, gestures as he discusses his Article XII legislative initiative extending the maximum private land lease from 55 years to 99 years and changing the definition of "corporation," while Sen. Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan), second from left, looks on during yesterday's Senate session on Capital Hill. Also in photo are Sens. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) and Frank Borja (Ind-Tinian), right.

Senate OKs 99-year private land lease

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

In a move that is touted as a means to protect the interest of indigenous residents while encouraging investments, the Senate passed yesterday afternoon a proposed constitutional change extending the maximum lease of private lands from 55 years to 99 years. The initiative also changes the definition of a "corporation" to allow corporations to own land if at least 51 percent of their shares or interests—as opposed to the current 100 percent—are held by persons of Northern Marianas descent.

Senate Legislative Initiative 18-2

passed the Senate on first and final reading by a vote of 9-0 at 12:46pm yesterday.

It is now headed to the House of Representatives for action.

» **House-bound initiative could pave way for land ownership changes**

If Sen. Paul Manglona's SLI 18-2 also passes the House within weeks or months, the question will be placed on the ballot for voters' ratification in November.

SLI 18-2's passage by both the Senate and House only means that voters will be given the opportunity to decide whether to amend Article 12, the land alienation provision of the NMI Constitution.

Senators took only a few minutes to

See **SENATE** on **Page 4**

Local

\$110K Tinian retroactive pay released on Valentine's Day

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider announced yesterday the release of over \$110,000 in partial retroactive salary payments to 125 former and current Tinian government employees on Valentine's Day, in time for the popular 10th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival the following day.

"It is great to finally address this obligation and return what is owed to our people," Hofschneider said in a statement along with Gov. Eloy S.

Inos, announcing the partial payments.

With the latest partial payment of over \$110,000, there is still an estimated \$200,000 yet to be paid, according to Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) yesterday.

"The government will continue to find ways to complete the payments," Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

Cruz said that based on information he got, many employees got some \$500 and \$800 each from last week's

partial payment.

The CNMI government still owes employees payments for salary scale adjustments under Public Law 7-31.

Hofschneider said the Feb. 14 partial payment was made possible through the fiscal year 2014 budget law, along with funding from Tinian

local revenue.

The Tinian municipal budget comes from revenues generated from the casino industry on island, which so far has only Tin-

ian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

"I would like to thank [Tinian] Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, the Tinian Delegation and the Tinian leadership, the Department of Finance, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Office of Personnel Management for their assistance with this effort. I am sure that our affected employees are thankful as well," added Hofschneider, who will remain acting CNMI governor until Feb. 28 when Gov. Eloy S. Inos returns from a series of official meetings in Washington, D.C.



Hofschneider

Senate confirms 3 CUC, CHC board appointees

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Senators confirmed yesterday two of Gov. Eloy S. Inos' appointees to the soon-to-be revived Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors as well as one governor's appointee to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board of trustees. The Senate also passed a total of 11 bills, resolutions, and an initiative during a morning-to-afternoon session.

By a vote of 9-0 each, the Senate separately confirmed David J. Sablan and Adelina C. Roberto to serve on the CUC board.

But the senators' nod on Roberto's appointment hinges on her resignation from the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees.

Pursuant to law, the chairman of the Commonwealth Development Authority board of directors, currently held by Digo M. Songao, automatically becomes a CUC board member.

Senate vice president Victor Hocog (R-Rota) urged fellow senators yesterday to confirm the governor's appointees "so we can stop once and for all the governor's CUC emergency declarations every month."

At least five CUC board members are required to constitute a quorum. Hocog said this means at least two more appointees need to be confirmed before a CUC board can be reconstituted because there are now three members: Songao, Sablan, and Roberto.

The Senate also confirmed by

a vote of 9-0 the governor's appointment of Phillip Mendiola-Long to serve as a member of the CHC board of trustees.

Bill to prevent shutdown

The Senate also adopted five resolutions and passed five bills.

By a vote of 9-0, the Senate passed Sen. Jovita Taimanao's (Ind-Rota) bill providing a penalty provision in the CNMI Planning and Budgeting Act if the House or Senate fails to pass a budget "on or before August 30 each year."

The expenditure authority of the members of the Legislature—House or Senate—shall terminate until such time that the required legislative action is completed by the Legislature, the bill says.

Taimanao said a penalty provision will help deter partial government shutdown, like what was experienced a few years back, over the Legislature's failure to pass a budget on time.

The budget penalty provision measure or Senate Bill 18-37, Senate Draft 2, which passed at 1:07pm yesterday, now goes to the House for action.

4 other bills

The first bill to pass the Senate yesterday was Rep. Tony Sablan's (Ind-Saipan) House Bill 18-20, allowing the Department of Public Lands to grant revocable consent without fees to individuals, businesses, or organizations to build and maintain structures on public property

See APPOINTEES on Page 4

Guam prosecutor testifies for Kim

Guam assistant attorney general Benjamin M. Abrams testified yesterday as an expert witness for businesswoman Jung Ja Kim in her racketeering lawsuit filed in federal court against attorney Ramon K. Quichocho, his wife, and his law firm.

After Kim's counsel, Robert T. Torres, completed his direction examination of Abrams, defense lawyers Michael Dotts, Quichocho, and David J. Lujan took turns grilling Abrams on the witness stand.

Dotts is counsel for Quichocho, Quichocho law office, Quichocho's wife, Frances, and the couple's office, Karissa LLC. Quichocho is counsel for himself. Lujan is counsel for Quichocho law firm.

Attorneys Torres and Colin Thompson represent Kim.

Lujan will continue questioning Abrams when trial resumes

today, Wednesday, in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Saipan Tribune learned that Lujan questioned Abrams on the latter's suspension in Chuuk during Trust Territory time for ethics violation, among others.

In his opinion, Abrams stated that Quichocho not only committed ethical transgressions but likely even criminal acts.

Abrams said the facts strongly suggest that Quichocho took unfair and unethical advantage of a client, Kim, by sexually victimizing her while she was on depression medication, thwarting her recovery, in an act of moral turpitude, and violative of the American Association's Disciplinary Rules.

Kim earlier testified that her then counsel, Quichocho, raped her twice in 2008 while she was on medication due to depression and anxiety. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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Saipan lawmakers urged to allot \$2.7M bond funds for CIPs

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos asked the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation to consider appropriating over \$2.717 million in bond funds and associated interest that is available for use on eight capital improvement projects on Saipan such as for road paving, buying school buses, hospital bed replacements, and equipment purchases.

Inos said that after working with the Commonwealth Development Authority, a total of \$2,717,969 has been identified in bond funds and associated interest available for Saipan projects.

"These funds present an opportunity for use to address some longstanding problems and I submit for your consideration the following projects for appropriation along with a brief description of the proposed projects," Inos said in a Feb. 14 letter addressed to SNILD chair Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan).

As of last night, there's no telling when Tebuteb or the SNILD would prefile a local bill appropriating these funds that CDA and the governor identified.

The governor's proposed Saipan projects include \$600,000 for Kagman's road

paving project; \$250,000 to buy two 66-passenger school buses for the Public School System; \$250,000 for the replacement of at least 50 hospital beds at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.; and \$45,000 to build a Saipan Southern High School baseball field.

Also on the governor's proposed list are \$900,000 to buy the Department of Public Works its much-needed road equipment such as a road grader, a backhoe, a Bobcat and two dump trucks; \$322,969 for administration facility equipment specifically for lawn cutting and grounds main-

tenance; \$200,000 for the Division of Parks and Recreation's purchase of a water tanker and a bucket truck; and \$150,000 for the construction of a small amphitheater and related facilities at the Carolinian Utt.

On the Kagman project, the governor said the \$600,000 funding will pave selected roads in Kagman 2 and 3. Of particular concern, Inos said, is the lack of a connector road between Kagman 2 and 3.

Inos also said the last time PSS bought 66-passenger school buses was in 2011.

As for CHC's hospital bed replacement project, the gover-

nor said the hospital still has the original 86 beds from when the facility opened in 1986.

"These beds are worn out and antiquated and cause harm to the patients and caregivers. In a recent inspection, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services strongly recommended that new beds be purchased in order to aid the prevention of bed ulcers, patient falls and caregiver back injuries," Inos said.

ries," Inos said.

The governor added that Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) has been requesting that the CNMI dedicate funds to replace the hospital beds since 2007.

Saipan Southern High School also does not have a baseball field, so the students use the field at a nearby elementary school, the governor added.



Inos

BOE lauds NMC's success in regaining accreditation

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero lauded the Northern Marianas College after it recently regained its accreditation with the Accrediting Commission of Community Junior and Colleges.

Guerrero disclosed plans by the board and the Public School System management to send a joint letter to the college, recognizing the institution and its employees for their hard work in having the college's accreditation reaffirmed.

"It took our college three years to do it. It's been a very choppy and bumpy road for NMC and the reaffirmation certainly strengthens their position," Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

2014 MMAC team meeting on Feb. 20

The 2014 Marianas March Against Cancer team meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 20, beginning at 5:30pm at the Commonwealth Cancer Association conference room on Middle Road in Gualo Rai (by NMPA-SI). All team captains or their representatives are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

The entertainment, accounting and T-shirt committees will be present to disseminate information on the upcoming MMAC.

The Marianas March Against Cancer is the largest fundraising activity and signature fundraising event for the Commonwealth Cancer Association—a volunteer-led non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to promoting cancer awareness and prevention, providing patient support services, and serving as the liaison and advocate for cancer issues in the CNMI.

The 2014 MMAC will be held on May 2-3, from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao. For more information call 989-1987 or email emanuel.borja@gmail.com or visit www.ccmarianas.org. (MMAC)

bune, adding that despite allegations and campaigns previously raised against the college, these didn't distract it from the objective of having its affiliation with ACCJC reaffirmed.

NMC received early this month the ACCJC's decision to reaffirm the college's accreditation, after determining that all deficiencies identified earlier had been resolved.

PSS earlier disclosed that majority of its high school graduates enroll at the NMC each year. The institution is also home to specific courses that are key to PSS programs and initiatives.

For one, the college's only baccalaureate program, the School of Education, produces most of the classroom teachers and related service providers for local public schools.

"This [reaffirmation] would

help us in a lot of ways because we're working with NMC. Hopefully, with this continued accreditation of the college it may be able to establish other programs that would further help our public schools," Guerrero said, adding that NMC can now enter into partnerships with other institutions that could offer programs not offered at NMC.

Like NMC, PSS was once under the Western Association of Schools and Colleges—the main commission body of the ACCJC.

However, in 2012 PSS and its board decided to cut ties with WASC and chose to be aligned under the North Central Association, another accreditation commission certified by the U.S. Department of Education.

WASC has the highest member institutions in its fold, numbering approximately 120 colleges and universities.

But it is under NCA, Guerrero said, that PSS and BOE found satisfaction.



Guerrero

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APPOINTEES

From Page 2

such as driveways and sidewalks. The bill, which passed at 12:34pm, now goes to the governor for action.

At 1:10pm, the Senate also passed by a vote of 9-0 Taimanao's SB 18-28, establishing a Criminal Offender Registration Act. The bill goes to the House for action.

Eight minutes later, senators also passed by a vote of 9-0

Rep. Larry Deleon Guerrero's (Ind-Saipan) HB 18-103, HD3, imposing higher fines on those who fail to register their vehicles on time and those who do not have liability insurance coverage for their vehicles.

Late renewal of registration, for example, will have a fine of \$30. Senators amended the three-day window period to 10 days after the last day of the month designated for vehicle registration renewal.

Senators also passed at 1:23pm Sen. Pete Reyes' (Ind-

Saipan) SB 18-31, SS1, SD1, HD1, establishing a new CNMI Scholarship Office as an autonomous agency rather than an agency headed by an administrator within the governor's office.

Resolutions

At 11:50am, senators adopted Senate President Ralph Torres' (R-Saipan) Senate Commemorative Resolution 18-14, promoting and supporting the abolition of human trafficking in the CNMI.

A minute later, the Senate also

adopted Sen. Paul Manglona's (Ind-Rota) Senate Resolution 18-26, supporting alternative regional transportation between Guam and the CNMI through ferry service or similar vessels.

Senators also adopted Senate Resolution 18-24 honoring Sgt. Maj. Herman Atalig for his contributions to the community, as well as Senate Resolution 18-25 honoring and paying tribute to the late former Saipan mayor Jesus "Gere" Sablan Deleon Guerrero, who passed away on Valentine's Day.

"The people of the CNMI will forever remember [Deleon Guerrero] not just for his community services...but [also] his wonderful personality, diligence, and great leadership which inspired many in the community," SR 18-25 partly reads.

At 12:26pm, senators also

adopted Senate floor leader Ray Yumul's (Ind-Saipan) SR 18-20 requesting the Department of Public Works "to close road access to the public in Chalan Galaide and to make it accessible only to immediate area residents if roadways are not safely and properly repaired."

2 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the Tanapag Meeting Hall and Garapan Fishing Dock and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the

next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from 38 locations on the Saipan coast every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. **(DEQ)**

3 burglary suspects arrested in Guam

GUAM (Pacific News Center)—Two brothers and their stepfather have been arrested and charged with separate burglaries and a car theft after police traced an unfamiliar cell phone number found on the cordless phone in the home of one of the robbery victims.

The first arrest was made last week. Joshua John Pangelinan Tedtaotao was charged with burglary.

According to the magistrate's complaint against him, Tedtaotao was arrested Feb. 13 fol-

lowing a foot chase and search, during which Tedtaotao decided to give up by calling an officer known to him, and asking that officer to come and pick him up at Danny's Goodtime Lounge in Mangilao.

During his interrogation, Tedtaotao was also asked about a Feb. 4 burglary and, according to the Magistrate report, he admitted that his brother, Jathan Tedtaotao, and Antonio "Ton" Quitugua of Yigo, stole six firearms, and 200 rounds of ammunition from a Yigo home on that date.

MEDICAID

From Page 1

taled 4,825 individuals. Of this number, Benito said, 1,752 applications have so far been approved.

In order to avail of the benefits of the Medicaid program, applicants must be U.S. citizens and within the income threshold set for the program. Those who receive SSI (supplemental security income) are also qualified, provided they apply for it.

Benito disclosed that the agency sets the income threshold a little bit higher each year, yet more and more people still apply for Medicaid benefits, she said.

For fiscal year 2014, the Medicaid program has set the income threshold for a single person at no more than \$1,082 per month. For a household of two, the income bracket is \$1,623 per month.

For a household of three, the new income bracket is \$1,743 per month, while a household of four has an income bracket of \$1,863 per month.

Under the government's 2014 eligibility list, the income threshold is for up to households of 20 members.

Under the Medicaid program, members are covered 100 percent for services like dental, eye checkup, medicines and hospital confinement, unless members have other insurance companies.

New applicants

Benito disclosed that since the start of fiscal year 2014, a large number of new applicants are mostly retirees and newborn babies of low-income parents.

She believes that the 25-per-

cent reduction in the pension benefits of retirees contributed to the surge in Medicaid clients. Many retirees became eligible to apply for Medicaid after losing 25 percent of their pensions.

The cut in retirees' pension was among the components of a settlement agreement reached by the government and parties in the Retirement Fund lawsuit.

"Some retirees are coming in to the program because they're now eligible after receiving a lower pension due to this 25-percent cut. Also noticeable is the entry of newborn babies," Benito told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Also, with more and more families dropping their health insurance due to higher premium rates, the program expects a continued surge in the number of people it will serve every year.

To explain the surge in applications received by the agency, Benito showed *Saipan Tribune* the 17 applications they received just yesterday morning. This number, Benito said, is very small compared to what they usually get on a daily basis.

"The data trend is growing... and will continue to grow," she said.

In Benito's personal opinion, "if a lot of people are depending on something that's totally free, there's really something wrong."

The Medicaid program is a federal/state program administered by the states and funded by both federal and state revenue through matching funds.

About four years ago, the Medicaid program had about 10,000 clients. This jumped to over 14,700 in fiscal year 2010. Since then, the number has continued to climb.

SENATE

From Page 1

discuss and clarify the intent of the initiative as present and previous Legislatures had already debated at length similar ideas to extend private land leases beyond 55 years.

As to changing the definition of "corporation" for land-ownership, Manglona said "it was never attempted before," although attempts to repeal Article 12 in its entirety failed several times before.

Article 12 restricts ownership of land in the CNMI to only persons of Northern Marianas descent or NMDs. Manglona's initiative seeks to amend Sections 3 and 5 of Article 12.

Under Manglona's initiative, Section 3 of Article 12 would be changed to extend the maximum lease of private lands from 55 years to 99 years for non-NMDs while maintaining the

ultimate objective of Article 12 to protect a limited amount of land for NMDs.

Extension of leases shall only occur with new valuable, as opposed to nominal, consideration, Manglona said.

The initiative also seeks to change Article 12 Section 5's definition of a "corporation" to permit minority interests by non-NMD persons.

Right now, a corporation is considered a person of Northern Marianas descent if it is owned 100 percent by NMD persons.

"The second part is just restoring the language back to the original language when we first passed our original Constitution. It was amended in 1985. I just want to bring it back to the way it originally was to make the definition for NMD corporation to mean 51-percent NMD," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview after the session.

He said under the initiative,

BUCKINGHAM

From Page 1

Wednesday, at 9am.

When trial resumed yesterday morning, Pierce called the defense's last witness, Buckingham.

The former AG testified that he did not endorse the candidacy of then-delegate candidate and now Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho at a party at Fitial's house in Gualo Rai on Aug. 28, 2010. He also denied committing the other allegations in the criminal complaint filed by OPA.

Buckingham said that on Aug. 3, 2012, his wife told him that she received a call from KSPN2 reporter Tina Sablan, who was staking him out. Buckingham said he believed it an act of harassment and that it was part of the reason why he called Fitial.

The former AG said he conveyed to Fitial that his wife was scared and crying.

Buckingham said there was a period of silence, then Fitial stated that he [Buckingham] was still the AG and that he [Fitial] would take steps to give him escort service.

Buckingham said he resigned as AG on Aug. 3, 2012, but that the effective date of his resignation was after 30 days. He said he resigned because of his health problems and to spend more time with his wife.

He said Fitial indicated that an escort service would be appropriate and that he would be receiving further instructions from then-Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogunoro.

On his alleged endorsement of then-delegate candidate Camacho, Buckingham said that Frieda Demapan, then-executive assistant to the AG, told him about a Facebook announcement of the OAG's planned party at Fitial's house that contained a message of endorsement for Camacho's candidacy.

"I listened to Frieda Demapan. I'm very concerned at that time," said Buckingham.

He said he spoke with Fitial and that Fitial stated that the Facebook posting should be removed.

On Pierce's questioning, Buckingham said he did not endorse Camacho's candidacy to the OAG staff and to the people who attended the party at Fitial's house.

At the gathering, Buckingham said, he only made introductory statements. He said that after receiving adverse reactions and criticism for that party, he later issued a press release, stating that he and the OAG were not endorsing Camacho's candidacy.

Since there was public perception that he supported Camacho's candidacy, Buckingham said he recused himself from

handling the election matter at the time and appointed another government lawyer to serve as acting AG.

Buckingham said he was aware that, as an AG, it was irregular and improper to endorse a political candidate.

On the matter of OPA's request for documents, Buckingham said he then issued a press release, saying he welcomes any investigation and that he wants all requested documents provided to OPA.

On the allegations that he conspired to avoid being served a criminal penal summons, Buckingham said he did not agree with Ogunoro to oppose the summons.

In fact, he said, he asked Ogunoro to tell Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent Haejun Park to come and have him deliver the document.

Buckingham admitted that he was in his room at the Aquarius Beach Tower when OPA investigators asked his wife if he was inside. He said he did not instruct his wife to tell OPA investigators he was not there.

Buckingham also admitted that he instructed assistant attorney general Gilbert Birnrich, then and now chief of the OAG Civil Division, to receive the OPA summons.

Buckingham said that upon his arrival at the Saipan International Airport in the early morning of Aug. 4, 2012, he saw Tina Sablan and that there were police officers

clarification whether the initiative is strictly for private lands, to which he received a response of "yes."

SLI 18-2 is now on its way to the House, which passed only on Feb. 6 an Article 11 initiative that extends the current maximum 40-year lease of public lands to 99 years—but only for persons of Northern Marianas descent—because more than 55-year leases to non-NMDs would violate Article 12.

In Article 12's restriction to persons of Northern Marianas descent, the term "permanent and long-term interests" in real property includes "freehold interests" and "leasehold interests" of more than 55 years.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the largest business group in the CNMI with some 160 members, has long supported proposals to extend the maximum land lease terms to spur investments.

separating her from him.

Buckingham said it was his first time he see a criminal penal summons that directed a person to appear in court one and a half days later.

Pertaining to his use of OAG lawyers to serve as his counsel in his criminal case, Buckingham admitted that he asked the department head to represent him for a limited special appearance.

He said he respects the court so he had to do that (legal representation) instead of simply ignoring the court.

Buckingham said he conveyed to Birnrich that if the court does not want an OAG lawyer to represent him, he [Buckingham] will appear telephonically.

He said he then retained a private counsel at his expense.

On Hasselback's cross-examination, Buckingham said he asked Frieda Demapan to coordinate the party at Fitial's residence with the OAG staff.

Buckingham admitted that he gave Demapan \$250 to spend for the party. He said he encouraged the OAG staff to attend but explained it was not mandatory.

Buckingham said he was very careful to avoid any endorsements in his remarks at the party.

He admitted that he retained private counsel G. Anthony Long at the government's expense in defending himself against an OPA investigation.

Fletcher: CUC saved nearly \$2K with office relocation

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Faced with criticisms of mismanagement, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Alan Fletcher defended his stint as executive director and said his decision to relocate some of the utility company's offices actually resulted in savings.

On the downside, Fletcher said that due to the installation of many streetlights on Saipan, the Department of Public Works' utility billings didn't go down as projected.

He gave these statements in response to a recent resolution filed at the House of Representatives asking for his removal from office. Part of House Joint Resolution 18-15 states: "CUC has been outfitting executive offices with lavish furnishings

at a time when the regular customers find it hard to even pay their utility bills."

Fletcher said the decisions regarding office space, locations, and furnishings occurred before he became the agency's chief, although he supported these decisions.

"CUC relocated the water and wastewater division to Sadog Tasi in part with grant funding and in part with the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade. That move did not cost ratepayers' money. CUC was also able to get a new agreement with our Dandan facility landlord after going through a proper procurement in 2011 for office space," said Fletcher.

He revealed that CUC previously paid \$21,870 per month for the third floor Dandan office and

the former ground floor customer service area. The total land area being rented was about 23,000 square feet.

"The new lease agreement for Dandan is now \$13,884 per month for 25,711 square feet, and the new lease for Oleai is \$5,335 per month for 9,880 sq. ft. This means that CUC's space rental cost went down from \$21,870 per month to \$19,219 per month and CUC's rental area went from 23,000 sq. ft. to 35,591

sq. ft.," Fletcher explained.

He described this move as a "solid business decision" that gave CUC two locations—one of which is far better suited for the transmission and distribution division. Additionally, there is now more square footage for operations and customer service.



Fletcher

On LED streetlights

Fletcher was also criticized that "CUC has failed to make a re-

duction on its rates to DPW to reflect savings realized pursuant to switching to LED (liquid emitting diodes) street lights" funded through ARRA monies.

Fletcher pointed out that in January 2012, prior to becoming executive director, the then-CPUC approved a new streetlight tariff that detailed how streetlights would be billed.

"Understanding that high pressure sodium lights use a lot of more energy than LED lights, different rates were set for each type of luminaire. As a result, as LED lighting is installed, the

bills changed accordingly," explained Fletcher.

Based on the tariff for streetlights, LED lights are expected on average to consume 575 kWh/month, while the sodium "long arm" lights are expected to consume 101 kWh/month.

"Billings are calculated accordingly. Also, during the time the LED lights were being installed, the streetlight inventory was updated and corrected. The result is that, even with the more efficient LED lights installed, actual kWh/month being billed have increased due to better accounting for the actual number of streetlights," added Fletcher in his response to the Legislature.

Woman allegedly stole \$15K Rolex watch from a 74-year-old relative

A woman allegedly stole a \$15,000 Rolex watch and a \$500 heirloom ring from a relative—a 74-year-old woman with disabilities.

Anthony Camacho, 48, a government employee, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he filed a police complaint against the suspect last Jan. 16, on the same day the Rolex watch was stolen.

Camacho wonders why the police have not arrested the suspect yet since they have investigated the case and interviewed several witnesses.

"We already provided information to police, including the suspect's whereabouts. This suspect, who is my relative, already scammed a lot of people here," he said.

Saipan Tribune opted to withhold the suspect's name until police complete their investiga-

tion and make an arrest.

Camacho said the suspect went to their house in Tanapag last Jan. 15 and stole his mother's Hawaiian heirloom ring with her nickname engraved in it.

The following day, Camacho said, the same suspect asked his mother if she wants to buy cigarette from the store. He said the caregiver tried to stop their mother from leaving, but the suspect, who was with two companions at the time, forced her into their car.

After about 10 to 15 minutes, Camacho said, the suspect returned to the house and dropped off his mother.

Camacho said their mother told them that the suspect took her Rolex watch.

He said their mother bought the watch when she was still working. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Zoning: No deadline yet for adult businesses to relocate

The CNMI Zoning Office has not set a deadline for adult businesses to move out from Saipan's main thoroughfares because they have yet to establish a designated adult business zoning district.

Zoning Office administrator Therese Ogumoro told *Saipan Tribune* this during an interview after serving as a guest speaker at the Rotary Club of Saipan weekly meeting yesterday at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

"The current owners are allowed to operate where they are and have no deadlines for them to move out due to the absence of a designated adult business zoning districts. New establishments, however, will not be able to operate," she said.

Back in January 2014, Zoning board members agreed to give the Legislature a free hand to choose the best location for the adult business park.

Saipan Local Law 18-6 abolished the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013, which designated a long swath of land on Saipan as the adult business overlay zoning district. These are mostly privately owned and located from the middle of Garapan to central San Jose along Chalan Pale Arnold or Middle Road. However, there was never any designation of Adult Business Parks in the law, hence the enactment of SLL 18-6.

Ogumoro, meanwhile, clarified that massage parlors are adult businesses except those

offering methods of practice by chiropractors, massage therapists, athletic trainers, and are professionally licensed or certified.

Also not included are those in a massage facility located in hotels with more than 20 rooms, or homes in which massage is done by traditional healers recognized by the customs of the Northern Mariana Islands.

In January 2014 the Zoning Office was given 120 days to come up with a recommendation on which site is best suitable for designation as an adult business park. So far, the Zoning Office has not determined possible designations yet.

Department of Public Land requirements have to be made and

there are no detailed requirements as of now, said Ogumoro.

Sites that were originally identified as possible areas for the adult businesses included the Old Samoan Housing site, located between Orchid Street and the ABC Building in Garapan. Due to its isolation from residential villages and available utilities, the former Puerto Rico dumpsite was also considered. Both sites have easy access to pedestrian paths and are adjacent to tourist markets.

Another possible site is the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque.

More information about the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013 could be found at www.zoning.gov.mp. (*Jayson Camacho*)

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IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on **February 20**, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before **February 20**.

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You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than **February 20**. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

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Saipan Tribune

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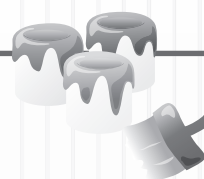
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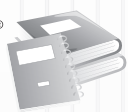
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For inquiries please contact Celia Pillarina at 235-2440 ext. 171

IR chair backs Inos, Kilili

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The chairman of the so-called Independent Republicans, Sen. Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan), said yesterday he supports the gubernatorial candidacy of Gov. Eloy S. Inos under the Republican Party, as well as the re-election of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) in the November race.

Reyes, however, pointed out that his support for these candidates is his own and does not represent the position of the entire IR, which is split in the candidates they want to support in the upcoming general elections.

"I am committed to supporting the governor's candidacy," Reyes told *Saipan Tribune*. "I am also in full support of Kilili."

The IR team is not fielding candidates for governor and delegate, but has candidates for members of the Legislature.

Reyes said even if the governor's Republican Party will have its own delegate candidate, he will still be supporting Sablan.

"I certainly hope the GOP will not field a delegate candidate. Again, that's just my



Reyes

own opinion," said Reyes. One of the names floating around for the GOP's delegate candidate is Joeten-Kiyu Public Library executive director John Oliver "Bolis" Gonzales, although he neither confirmed nor denied this Monday afternoon. The Republican Party has set a new deadline of Feb. 21 for submission of letters of intent to run in the November polls.

Last year, the Covenant Party said it will continue to endorse Sablan for delegate.

But that was prior to the Covenant Party merging with the Republican Party. At the time, Inos was the titular head of the Covenant Party.

Reyes and former lieutenant governor and former speaker Diego Benavente, along with others, formed the IR team when former governor Benigno R. Fitial took over the Republican Party.

The IRs became a formidable force during the impeachment process against Fitial, the first governor of any U.S. territory to be impeached by the House of Representatives for corruption, neglect of duty, and felony. Fitial resigned on Feb. 20, 2013, just days before the start of his impeachment trial at the CNMI Senate.

Most of those in the current House leadership are members of the IR team, including Speaker Joe DeLeon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), the main author of the impeachment resolutions.

'Dako-On' drum group to perform at Street Market

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 200 students from Seisa High School in Japan are currently on island for their annual cultural exchange program with the Public School System's Marianas High School.

The first batch, composed of 84 students, arrived Monday night while 111 additional members were scheduled to arrive on Saipan last night.

This year's delegation is headed by director Kuniko Sasaki and includes two school principals and an assistant who serves as the group's chaperones.

Arranged by the Nippon Travel Agency, it was disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that 10 students from the delegation are up for their maiden performance at Thursday's Street Market at the Garapan Fishing Base.

These 10 are members of the "Dako-On," a popular drum group in Seisa High School that has already performed in various venues in Japan and other countries.

Saipan Tribune was told that the group of young drummers made a remarkable performance in Cuba in 2000 and in China two years later. The group was also invited to showcase its talents in The Netherlands in 2005.

ents in The Netherlands in 2005.

The group won first prize in the "Kumagaya Dome" festival in Japan in December 2011.

According to Ramon Valesteros, NTA tour agent, the group's schedule for the weeklong cultural exchange is packed with activities inside the MHS campus including class participation, sports activities, and others.

Saipan Tribune learned that this year marks the 28th year that Seisa High School has traveled to Saipan for the traditional celebration with their counterparts at MHS. The group is scheduled to leave the island on Saturday.

10-hour water outage today in parts of Saipan

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said yesterday that residents of Navy Hill, Upper MIHA, China Town and of Japon Street will experience a 10-hour water outage today, Feb. 19, 2014, from 8am to 6pm.

The purpose of this water outage is to allow CUC's contractor, GPPC Inc., to rehabilitate the pressure relief valve on Navy Hill Road. This project

is part of the Navy Hill Water Line and Pressure Improvement Project funded by the U.S. Environment Protection Agency.

The water outage will affect residents living in Navy Hill, Upper MIHA, China Town, and homes along Japon Street.

CUC's operations team and GPPC will be working hard to return service to our customers in these affected areas as soon as

possible. Because of the scale of the work to be performed, CUC recommends that motorists exercise caution when driving through the construction sites.

CUC apologizes in advance for any inconvenience resulting from this project and the water service interruption. Direct inquiries to project manager Larry Manacop at (670) 236-4332. (CUC)

Grant applications open for conservation innovation efforts

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for competitive grants to develop and accelerate conservation approaches and technologies on private agricultural and forest lands.

"Conservation Innovation Grants have contributed to some of the most pioneering conservation work on America's agricultural and forest lands," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "It's an excellent investment in new conservation technologies and approaches that farmers, ranchers and forest landowners can use to achieve their production and conservation goals."

About \$15 million will be made available nationwide by the USDA's Natural Resources

Conservation Service. State and local governments, federally recognized Indian tribes, non-governmental and educational organizations, private businesses and individuals are eligible to apply.

Vilsack said priority will be given to applications that relate to nutrient management, energy conservation, soil health, air quality, climate change, wildlife, economics, sociology, environmental markets, food safety, historically underserved groups, or assessments of past CIG projects.

In the 10 years that NRCS has administered the program, grants have helped develop water quality trading markets, demonstrated ways to increase fertilizer water and energy efficiencies, as well as address

other resource concerns.

The grant program enables NRCS to work with public and private partners to accelerate technology development and adopt promising approaches to address natural resource concerns. Funded through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the grants are awarded through a competitive process. At least 50 percent of the total cost of grant projects must come from non-federal matching funds, including cash and in-kind contributions provided by the grant recipient.

For more on this grant opportunity, visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/cig/index.html>. To apply electronically, visit www.grants.gov. (USDA)

Competitions heat up weekend's Pika Festival on Tinian

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TINIAN—The 10th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 15 and 16 showered much attention on the island's indigenous hot pepper, called *donni sali*, in the form of various *pika* competitions spread out across the two-day festival.

One of that was the annual booth contest, which pitted the various vendors and information booths against one another in how they effectively promote the *donni sali*. This year, the booth of the United Filipinos Association in Tinian was named the champion, winning for the group the \$150 first place cash prize. Fleming's Restaurant and Bar took second place and won \$100 while JM Roadside Snack came third and took home \$75.

In the beautiful *mwar-mwar* making contest, Lovelina Saralou flowered her way to victory with a \$100 cash prize. Coming in second was Rose Lazaro, who pocketed \$75. Lucia Ayuyu, the winner of the female hot pepper eating contest, placed third with \$50.

The Pika Festival wouldn't be complete without the cooking contest called Estofao Pika, during which a local dish is cooked using *donni sali* as one of its main ingredients. Cooking his way to victory was Jolo



JAYSON CAMACHO

Contestants wolf down hamburgers laced with the potent *donni sali* during the JC Café's Pikalicious Burger Eating contest at the 10th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Saturday, Feb. 15, 2014.

Del Santos, who took home the \$150 first place purse. Tina San Nicholas, who got third place at the hot pepper eating contest, went up to second on this event and got \$100, while William Cing came third and earned \$75.

One of the highlights was the dragon boat race, which the JC Café team handily won by clocking in at 5:55 and taking \$150 in cash. Trailing behind was the Tinian Mayor's Office at 6:45 and it was good for the

\$100 second place prize. At third, was Team Tasi at 7:09 and the team received \$75.

Bumping the ball to victory at the Beach Volleyball Tournament Championship was Team Pika-boo, taking home \$150 in cash. Da Misters, a family team, took second and walked off with \$100, while Team Tasi came third with \$35.

The adult tug-of-war was another highlight, with Team 1 the ultimate victor. Team 2

took second place and Team 3 took last place.

The second day of the festival featured one of the festival's favorite events, the Umang (or hermit crab) Race. Kasey Cruz's hermit crab scuttled to the finish line and took \$20 as the victors' prize. Drake Pua's hermit crab took second with \$15 and Andrew Hofschneider Jr. took \$10 coming in at third.

Another event was the sack race. Team 2 hopped away as

champions with \$100 in the sack. Team 1 took second with \$75 and Team 3 took \$50.

The final contest was the Cha Cha Dance contest, which also got many of the tourists involved. In first place was the dancing pair of Julita and Carmen. In second were Raul and Chona, while swaying their body to third was Joe and Bernie. Tourist couple Jin and Hye Sun came in last but got a great round of applause for taking part in the festivities.

Vida Borja, coordinator of the Tinian Pika Festival, said, "I am just glad that tourist visitors actively participated in the activities. A pair of Ko-

rean nationals joined the local Cha Cha Dance contest and a Japanese group named 'Te Ora Amo' entertained the audience with a cultural dance. Also, new and longstanding vendors were happy with their sales. One of the vendors stated that her excitement and enjoyment of the festival was an added profit."

The 10th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival was made possible by the Marianas Visitors Authority and cosponsors Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, Tinian Mayor's Office, 14th Tinian Municipal Council, 18th Tinian Delegation, and the community of Tinian.

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The Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association is interested in meeting with interested companies to discuss the possibility of one or more long-term contracts for cleaning and maintenance of the Susupe Sports Complex, including the Ada Gym, Tun Ko Palacios baseball field, the athletics track, the Miguel S. Pangelinan softball field, and related facilities.

The meeting will be held on Saturday, March 8, 2014, at 9:00 a.m., at the Ada Gym Conference Room. All interested companies are encouraged to send a representative.

For further information, please contact Michael A. White at 234-6547 or by email at mwhite@saipan.com

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS					
February 15-16	February 19	February 21	February 22	February 23	March 1
SAT/SUN	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	SUNDAY
MARIANAS JUNIOR CUP 19U M/W Doubles	KIDS CLINIC FOR 19U	MARIANAS PRO-AM CUP REGISTRATION & PRO PLAYER EXHIBITION	MARIANAS PRO-AM CUP M/W DOUBLES POOL PLAY	MARIANAS PRO-AM CUP DOUBLE ELIMINATION	MARIANAS KIDS CUP 17U & 14U 4P
9 am – 5 pm	4 – 6 pm	Registration 4 – 5:30 pm Exhibition 5:30 – 9:30 pm	Player Check-In 7:30 am – 8 am Games 8 am – until finished	Player Check-In 7:30 am – 8 am Games 8 am – until finished Awards banquet immediately following	Registration Tues 2/25 Final Registration Thurs 2/27 at MHS Gym 4-6 pm
Guam	Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan (beach side)				

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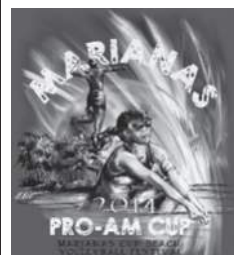
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Axe Murder Tours • Brabu Pharmacy • PIC Saipan • Monika's Furniture • MINA • Minimax Diving

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- \$100/team
- Pro-Raffle Ticket \$10/ea
- Registration beachside Friday 2/21 4-5:30-pm
- Open to all players 16+ (or w/parent permission)
- Get more info off of the registration form or email nmivolleyball@gmail.com



MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Friday, February 21, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.** at the MVA Conference Room San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

- 1) **Preliminary Matters**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
- 2) **Public Comments**
- 3) **Committee Reports**
- 4) **New Business**
 1. FY 2015 Budget
- 5) **Old Business**
 1. FY 2014 2nd half offshore budget
- 6) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
- 7) **Executive Session**
- 8) **Adjournment**

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chair, MVA Board of Directors

School Pride Rally Friday Feb 21 – Get your school entered for a chance to win volleyballs nmivolleyball@gmail.com for more info
\$1 Raffle Draw February 22 & 23 • Live Music Sat 2/21 4pm • Rudy Rudegear Fun Matches Saturday afternoon

Civil Service Commission elects new leadership

The Civil Service Commission held its first meeting of 2014 on Jan. 23 and 24, with the unanimous election of Herman R. Deleon Guerrero as chair and Felicitas P. Abraham as vice chair for 2014. The commission's other members are Charles Calvo, Augustina Kukun, and Eric L. Plinske.

Among the new business the commissioners tackled were:

- Discussion of the government's internship program for college graduates lacking work experience and how to revitalize the program, which has fallen out of use.

- An initiative to advise the Legislature of the progress made by the commission since its first organizational meeting in December 2012 after the appointment of sufficient commissioners to form a quorum, allowing the effective conduct of business.

- Efforts to obtain federal funding and assistance for human resource training and programs for the commission, staff of the Office of Personnel Management, and other government employees.

- The need to review personnel issues as the frozen annual within-grade increase and promotional increase programs and other matters within the Personnel Service Systems Rules and

Regulations.

The commission also reviewed progress made by OPM in resolving the numerous appeals and grievances long on hold due to the previous lack of an appointed quorum. OPM has been able to reach a majority of the appellants and grievants, and is working with them to determine what actions will be needed to resolve their cases.

The commission, in its discussion, noted recent legislative concern with personnel issues brought to their attention and welcomed their interest in limiting political involvement in the personnel and hiring processes and their desire to ensure that government operations were fair to all and, also, more effective for all. The commission pointed out in a letter to the Legislature's presiding officers that the commission and the Director of Personnel are always available to provide advice and assistance on human resource matters. The development of a mutually assistive relationship will also benefit OPM and the commission by making them aware of the Legislature's or their constituent's concerns and to ensure that lawmakers have

full and accurate information on the matter.

The commission also assured the Legislature that the employment policies and practices of the government are continuously being reviewed and adjusted as necessary to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of personnel operations. Public Law 17-80, which took effect on Aug. 31, 2012,

mandated the commission to promulgate rules and regulations governing employment issues for the government workforce, which includes developing and maintaining fair and non-discriminatory hiring practices.

The commission held its first organizational meeting on Dec. 4, 2012, after being dormant and without a quorum for the past few years.

Since its reactivation, the commission has begun reviewing the government's main employment policies:

1. The Personnel Service System Rules and Regulations: This document, which regulates employment under the Civil Service System, is currently under review by OPM, after which the draft document will be finalized by the commissioners for final adoption and

promulgation.

2. The Excepted Service Regulations: This regulation provides guidance for government contract employment, a category of employment that is not subject to Civil Service rules and regulations. This regulation has been reviewed and updated, and is now being implemented and enforced.

OPM has been tasked by the commission to review and prepare all CNMI employee grievances, to include all pending files that go as far back as 2006. This backlog resulted from the lengthy period of time when the commission lacked enough commissioners to function. Available documents and records are being put together at this time to prepare for an investigation into each case to allow for their resolution.

The commission recognizes that the tasks they face are very challenging, but are currently being addressed. As mentioned above, ensuring that the government follows fair and non-discriminatory hiring and employment practices is a major concern of OPM and the commission. The commission has also committed to enhancing the capabilities of commission members and OPM and its staff through workshops and other trainings. (PR)

» Commission reports its progress to the Legislature

Saipan Awaodori Team performs at Paseo



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Japanese tourists Mrs. Kimura and Kaneyama have their picture taken with members of the Saipan Awaodori Team.

Tourists at the Paseo de Marianas were treated to a performance of the Saipan Awaodori Team last Saturday—the first of what is slated to become a regular weekend event.

During the performance, many of the Saipan Awaodori Team members interacted with tourists, teaching them the intri-

cate steps of this uniquely Japanese dance form.

Sonia Siwa, coordinator of the Saipan Awaodori Team, said the purpose of this weekend's performances is for the entertainment of tourists, allowing visitors to mingle and blend with local kids here on Saipan.

She said the Saipan Awaodori Team will be performing every weekend at Paseo de Marianas starting at 7pm.

Siwa said that they are still accepting new recruits for the team. The group is now busy rehearsing for upcoming performances on events such as Taste of the Marianas, Flame Tree

Festival, and other Marianas Visitors Authority events.

Siwa said that the Saipan Awaodori Team practices on Tuesday and Wednesday from 4pm to 5:30pm at Kobleville Youth Center. Registration is free and open to children 5 to 6 years of age. (Jayson Camacho)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 19, 2006

'Diabetes rate in NMI remains high'

The CNMI continues to have one of the highest rates of diabetes cases in the world, making this disease one of the main priorities of the Department of Public Health under the new administration, according to acting Department of Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez. He told a Senate panel last week that the Division of Public Health would always be at the forefront of efforts to prevent and treat diabetes in the Commonwealth. He also promised to expand the program that specifically targets this disease.

\$1.2M monthly earnings from fuel surcharge fee

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has been generating an additional income of \$1.2 million monthly since the fuel surcharge was implemented in April 2005. A summary of CUC's collections showed that utility fees paid by residential and commercial customers averaged \$4.9 million between October 2004 and April 2005. As a result of the fuel surcharge implementation, CUC's collection rose to \$6.3 million in May 2005. Utility revenues peaked at \$6.6 million in July 2005 and hit a \$5.4 million low in November 2005. But overall, CUC's collection from households and businesses has averaged \$6.1 million from May 2005 to January 2006.

February 19, 2007

No further eruption detected at Anatahan Volcano

The Emergency Management Office yesterday said that the volcanic haze advisory that it issued Saturday night has been cancelled as no further eruption has been detected at Anatahan Volcano. EMO said that in close consultation with the U.S. Geological Survey and National Weather Service Guam, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial would like to inform the residents of Saipan and Tinian that the volcanic haze advisory that was issued Saturday at 6pm has been cancelled as of 11pm on the same night. "Visibility at the Saipan International Airport has been good for the last several hours and there have been no reports of sulfurous odor for the last few hours," said EMO in its announcement yesterday at 12am.

Accountant allowed to seek new employer following closure of longtime company

Labor administrative hearing officer Jerry Cody has granted the request of an accountant to seek a new employer after his employer for 17 years closed business due to financial difficulties. Cody affirmed the Labor director's decision to deny the permit application by Ngarois Skey to employ his longtime Filipino employee, Romeo V. Sison. Cody granted Sison's request to seek a new employer in 45 days as the accountant was found not at fault. Labor records show that Sison was employed as an accountant by Skey, owner of Skey's Accounting & Income Tax Services, from 1989 until 2006.

February 19, 2008

NMC Tinian and Rota could be restored if...

The Northern Marianas College would have to submit a proposal for change to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges before restoring any classes or programs at the Tinian or Rota sites. According to ACCJC president Dr. Barbara Beno, "The commission is aware of considerable pressure for the college to provide educational services on Tinian and Rota; however, it should be noted that the college will need to submit a Substantive Change Proposal prior to restoring any classes/programs at these two sites and this cannot be undertaken during the time the college is on sanction." NMC said they are still interested in opening the academic sites at the two locations and they plan on doing so in time.

'Unlimited reprogramming power for governor shifts onus to Fitial'

A lawmaker has opposed a proposal to grant the governor unlimited reprogramming power until a new budget has been passed. Rep. Tina Sablan said that legislators would be avoiding their responsibility by simply giving the governor unlimited reprogramming authority. "It would certainly be easier to blame him [governor] if anything goes wrong, but I truly believe we would be shirking our own responsibility to be fiscally prudent and to provide oversight in the expenditure of public funds. Why not follow the guidelines for reprogramming that are provided in the Planning and Budgeting Act?" she asked.

290 attend 5th Annual NMC Health Fair

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Survivors, caregivers support meeting

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014, starting at 5:30pm at Hyatt Regency Saipan, Chamolinian Room. Guest speaker Kim Peterson will present on the benefits of yoga and holistic healing. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@ccamarianas.org. (PR)

CCA board meeting on Feb. 18

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will hold its regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2014, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact CCA at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org. (PR)

UOG celebrates Charter Day on March 11

The University of Guam celebrates its 46th Charter Day on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 on the UOG campus. Opening Ceremonies begin at 9am and activities run throughout the day until 5pm.

UOG Charter Day showcases a multitude of activities and events including campus tours, the Annual College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Research Conference, which features over 60 different presentations, the CHamoru Language Competition, agricultural displays, ROTC tactical demonstrations, Chemistry Titration High School Competition, Isla Center for the Arts exhibit, live music, food, games, and more.

This year, Charter Day also features the finals of the President's Cup Competition where students, alumni and UOG employees compete in nine different events including basketball, volleyball, badminton, ping pong, dodgeball, 5K run/walk, golf, and more.

For details and a list of events, visit www.uog.edu/charterday or visit the UOG Facebook page at www.facebook.com/universityofguam. (UOG)

Free business seminars

The CNMI Small Business Development Center presents a series of free business seminars.

■ **TINIAN:** Health Insurance for Small Business, Feb. 21, 2014, from 10am to 12pm, at the Tinian's Northern Marianas College Room-D.

■ **ROTA:** Health Insurance for Small Business, Feb. 27, 2014, from 10am to 12pm, at the Rota's Northern Marianas

College Room A-2.

Online registration at pisd-cn.ecenterdirect.com or call for pre-registration at (670) 664-3018 or www.pacificsbdc.com. (PR)

Navy to conduct training in Agat Bay

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct parachute and aircraft training at Agat Bay on Feb. 20 from 7am to noon. This exercise is designed to enhance the training and readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see and hear increased activity associated with the exercise. (PR)

UOG announces 2014 Chemistry Titration Competition

As part of UOG Charter Day festivities this year, the University of Guam Chemistry Department is organizing its 6th Annual Titration Competition for high schools on Charter Day, Tuesday, March 11, 2014, from 8:30am to 2pm. The competition will be held in the Chemistry Laboratory Room SC230, at the Science Building on the UOG campus.

All of the high schools in Guam are invited to participate in this event. Each school will be allowed to send two teams to this competition and each team comprises two students. Prizes will be awarded to the top team and top individual. Members of the UOG Chemistry faculty, staff, and students will be facilitating this event.

To register for the competition download and complete the registration at: <http://www.uog.edu/news-announcements/uog-announces-2014-chemistry-titration-competition>. Submit the forms through email or fax to: Dr. Maika Vuki Email: mvuki@uog.edu; or fax: (671) 734-1299

Closing date for registration for the competition is Feb. 21, 2014 at 5pm. For details contact Dr. Vuki at 735-2784 or email mvuki@uog.edu. (UOG)



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Britney Nicole Camacho! May this day be a joyful and blessed one for you! Love, Daddy, Mommy, Brandon, Quianney, Leona, and Bryannamae.

By **THOMAS MANGLONA**
CORRESPONDENT

Nursing students are exposed to the many sicknesses that plague the people of the CNMI. They encounter diabetes, hypertension, stroke, and many other illnesses, according to NMC Nursing Club vice president Jan Alcantara.

Many of these diseases, she said, occur due to the lack of information about health and access to health care providers. As aspiring nurses, part of their duties includes patient care in the hospital, which also includes health education and preventative care.

"Our goal is to provide the community with the opportunity to have health screenings,

learn from informational booths and participate in exercise activities that promote the health of the entire person," she said.

In line with this initiative, the NMC Nursing Club hosts a health fair every year that not only provides free checkups but also a host of information on how to keep oneself and one's family healthy.

This year, the fifth edition of the health fair was held on Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Supe, which drew nearly 300 members of the community.

The 5th Annual Health Fair started off with a 5K walk in the morning, with the first 20 finishers awarded T-shirts.

At the Multi-Purpose Center itself, 20 booths occupied the

venue both inside and outside. Get Fit CNMI exhibited Cross Fit and basic body mechanics and proper mobility. The Hardt Eye Clinic and other educational booths provided free blood sugar checks and eye exams. There were also CPR demonstrations and a "Boxercise" session.

The event also featured a panel discussion of physicians and a registered nurse who answered questions regarding health concerns. NMC-CREES also held a presentation on the fat content of common foods people eat and drink, such as: Spam, corned beef, Hi-C, and King Car. The event came to a close with a Zumba session by Gold's Gym.

According to Alcantara, all the profits generated will help

support the club's outreach efforts, such as purchasing supplies for their Accucheck machines.

The walk garnered 49 walkers while 241 community members participated in the fair along with 30 volunteers.

"For the most part, I think that the community really enjoyed availing of the free services and information. I also think they enjoyed the demonstrations for the program," Alcantara said. "Our ultimate aim for the health fair was to simply offer free health services to the public, bring the community together to be informed about health issues in the CNMI, and spread awareness and knowledge about healthy living, to encourage and promote healthy living."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A Northern Marianas College nursing student prepares to give a Health Fair participant a free blood sugar test, during the Health Fair held on Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Robert Tenorio Torres
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Attorney for Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**BANK OF GUAM,
Plaintiff,
vs.
FRANKLIN JOEL
R. CRUZ,
Defendant.**

**Civil Action
No. 11-0169

NOTICE OF
HEARING ON
PLAINTIFF'S
MOTION FOR
DEFAULT
JUDGMENT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **February 24, 2014, at 1:30 pm**, a hearing will be held before Judge **Teresa Kim-Tenorio** on Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgment in the above-captioned matter, at the Superior Court for the CNMI, *Guma Hustisia*, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Respectfully submitted this 30th day of January, 2014.

/s/
CLERK OF COURT

Francisco B. Igisaiar & Sabina M. Atalig
P.O. Box 548
Rota, MP 96951
Telephone No.: 789-3070/789-3038

PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN RE THE MATTER OF) FCD GU
THE PETITION TO) CIVIL ACTION
APPOINT GENERAL) NO. 13-0584 R
GUARDIANSHIP FOR:)
SUESAN IGISAIAR) **NOTICE OF**
ATALIG,) **HEARING**

Minor Child,)
By:)

FRANCISCO B. IGISAIAR)
AND SABINA M. ATALIG)
Petitioners,)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on March 21, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 202A, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 18th day of February, 2014.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Ginia Charley
P.O. Box 10005
PMB 24
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 235-0626 / 785-3004

Pro se

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

In Re The Matter Of) FCD GU
The Petition To) CIVIL ACTION
Appoint General) NO. 14-0030
Guardianship For:)

Tyara Reann M. Cruz) **NOTICE OF**
Minor Child) **HEARING**

By:)
Ginia Charley)
Petitioners)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on February 27, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Honorable Judge Govendo.

Dated this 18th day of February, 2014.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Jang Ho Kim
P.O. Box 7078 SVRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670)-483-1155

PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In the Matter of the)
Petition for the) FCD-CN
Change of Name of:) No. 14-0064
Won-Young Kim,)
Minor Child)
by) **NOTICE OF**
Jang Ho Kim,) **HEARING**
Hee Jung Suh)
Petitioner(s))

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on March 27, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 11th day of February, 2014.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Should the US be preaching freedom of religion overseas?

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations in 1948 says, "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion." But, like other rights enshrined in that declaration, religious freedom is widely violated around the world. Is that any of the business of the United States? President Obama thinks so, and he's right.

Before the most receptive audience imaginable—a National Prayer Breakfast—Obama recently insisted that "promoting religious freedom is a key objective of U.S. foreign policy." And he reiterated U.S. opposition to laws and international resolutions that oppose "blasphemy" and "defamation of religion," noting correctly that they "all too often can be used to suppress religious minorities."

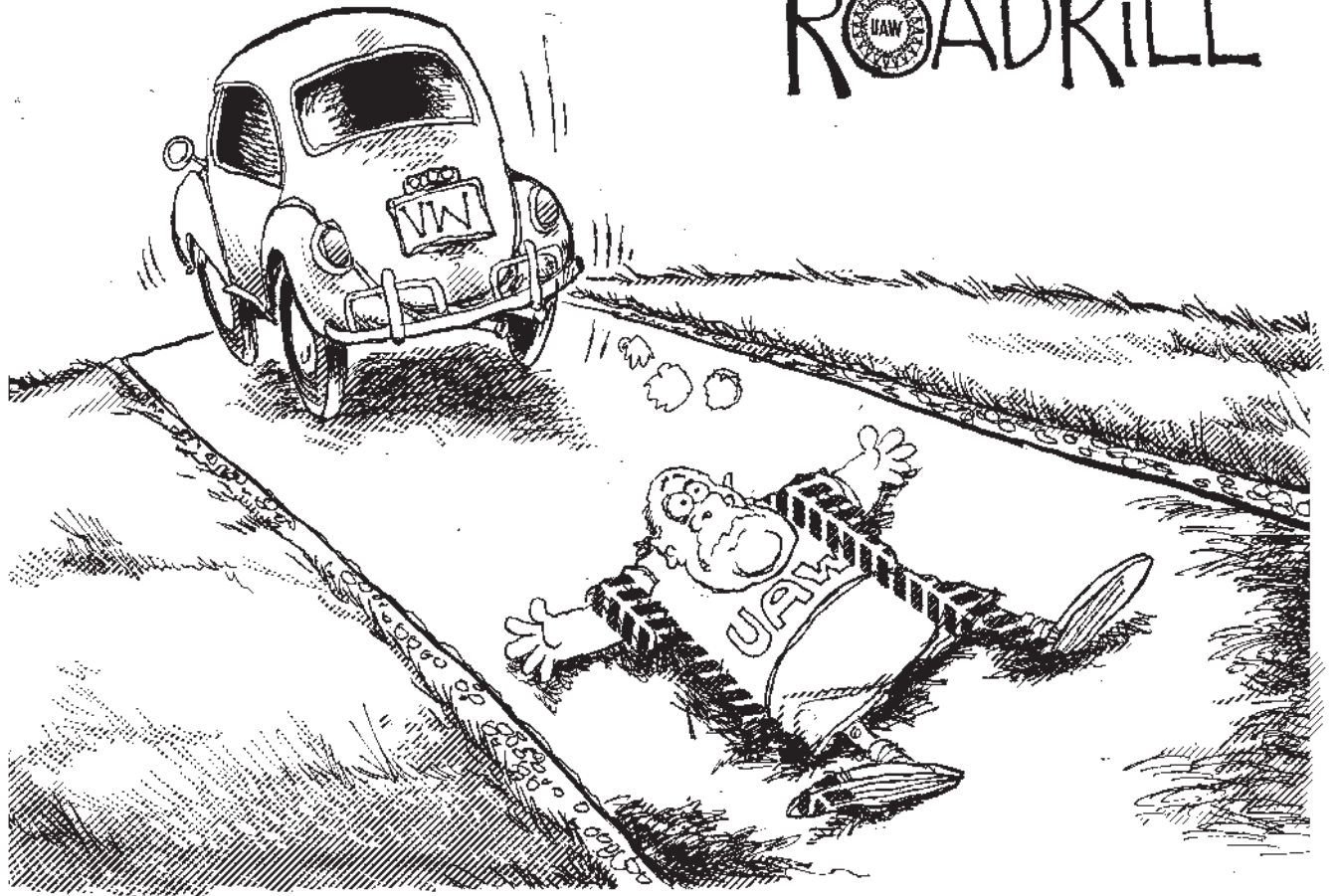
Some Americans are uncomfortable with the emphasis the U.S. government places on religious liberty abroad, seeing it as the result of lobbying by Christian groups that are intent on proselytizing in Muslim and other countries. But the importance that Congress and the executive branch attach to religious liberty abroad is much more than a sop to American missionaries or the religious right. For although it is true that Christians are targeted for discrimination or persecution in other countries, so are adherents of other faiths as well as those who profess no faith at all. Moreover, as Obama said at the prayer breakfast, nations that don't uphold freedom of religion "sow the bitter seeds of instability and violence and extremism."

But in promoting religious freedom abroad, the United States needs to recognize two realities. The first is that this country's commitment to religious freedom—and to other core values such as democratization, free speech and equality for women—sometimes will be trumped by other interests. Obama acknowledged as much when he said that "we work with governments that don't always meet our highest standards, but they're working with us on core interests such as the security of the American people."

Second, even when the country is an ally, for geopolitical or other reasons, the United States shouldn't be silent when it sees religious rights being violated. In his speech, Obama appropriately called on North Korea and Iran to release imprisoned Christian evangelists and referred to the plight of religious minorities in Egypt, Pakistan, China and Syria. But he didn't mention Saudi Arabia, where, according to the State Department's report on religious liberty, "freedom of religion is neither recognized nor protected under the law, and the government severely restricted it in practice."

The United States is right to witness to the importance of freedom of conscience, but it needs to preach that message to friends and enemies alike.

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Young and mobile'd

By JAIME R. VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

There are 1.39 billion folks in China. There are 1.11 billion mobile phone subscribers. China is definitely into the mobile communication world. Though the mobile phone itself has more than 50 years of history, Japan touted the first type of mobile cellphones familiar today. The first hit the market in 1997, the 3G in 2005 and the 4G in 2009. We are seeing the first generation of people that grew up with the mobile cellphone used like a fashion accessory.

One of three telecom giants in China is China Mobile. It is currently one of the two leading mobile phone service providers. The users on a typical bus ride numbers about 7 out of 10; in the subway, since HK provided repeater technology underground, it is easily 9 out of 10. China is a nation wired. (Some may consider it weird, too, but that would be a rushed bias rather than a balanced subjective opinion.)

That they are young is without question. With the cellphone only 16 years old, and the smartphone only yesterday's marriage of the PDA, Internet, phone, and the pad, the technology and its global users are very young. They have also spawned a new form of cultural behavior.

One of the stated rules in the classroom at Shenyang Aerospace University was the prohibition of the use of a cellphone by anyone including the professor. Right. Try telling that to the PLA.

One of the reasons I arranged my room like a collegium room (*collegium* is Latin for conversation) was from visual experiences of other classes where the front row had the teacher's attention, but anywhere behind were either students texting on their cellphones, or reading an entertaining material, usually a comic book, or when at the extreme back, had their heads down on the desk asleep.

Of the sleepy heads, they tended to be the studious ones who spent hours into the night preparing for tests, primarily on standardized ones that, if passed, would get them certificated to qualify either in an advance course or a higher level of academic attainment like graduate school. Getting students to shift their study from tests to learning was one of the hardest things to do.

The collegium setup was doable at under-30 students with the sizes of the rooms we had, and allowed for an acceptable tone from teachers who could not afford to be loud, a socially unacceptable trait. The enterprising ones brought their own amplified head mikes, which sometimes aggravated the situation as the students were dispersed in the room and the teacher, thinking that all he really needed was to be heard, did not care. In the larger classes equipped with

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



audio-visual equipment, the conscientious teachers spoke through mikes. Since I taught Oral English, and I wanted my students to listen directly to a human voice as well as observe the facial and hand gestures, and other body language, rather than just the sound from an electronically amplified one, I created space where I could establish eye contact and be able to move around. Besides, one of the exercises in class was for students to speak, and I wanted them to listen to each other's discourse.

To counter the necessity of having the cellphone available to receive important messages, I asked them to turn their cellphones off and retrieve their messages during the break times. Each session lasted 45 minutes before a break so it was reasonable to let them turn their cellphones off.

The other rationale expressed was their access to a dictionary like the one provided by a server like qq.com, or built in to the cellphone memory. This was harder to counter since other classes allowed them this option. So I returned to the short course of why they never learned to speak well, compared to their reading and writing aptitude, since they learned English by seeing, like they did in memorizing the idiograms and pictographs of *Putunghua*, rather than listening to a phonetic language where their ears needed to be trained to recognize sounds and tones. As the *Hanyu Pinyin* of *Putunghua* gets into more use, accenting the phonetic nature of the language, students are beginning to understand why the listening part of learning English is crucial.

Meanwhile, almost all of China's young are mobile'd. It is almost as if one is without dress if not fingering a cellphone. Walking on the street or riding public transportation, the ubiquitous cellphone is present.

This is not just in China. Of the Western tourists I encountered in Hong Kong over New Year's, parents all the way to the children had their own cellphone. Even the grandma beside me on the bus was texting.

The very telling trend among upscale coffee shops was the sign: "We do not have WiFi; talk to each other."

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

CUC violates stipulated order

The inevitable clock of likely rolling blackouts has started ticking. I can't help but get goose bumps at tidings that the chief engineer of the power plant, Wallen Young Fong, has quit and left.

Isn't Fong's departure a violation of the District Court's stipulated order that CUC retain a qualified technical expert to oversee power generation operation at Lower Base?

What happens when the old system begins to break down? Do we ask DPL once more for more money so we could fetch Aggreko to fix the mess? Why the complicity in the incompetence of CUC?

More than six years ago, I gave CUC—via MPLT—some \$3.5 million to repair and rebuild the old generators. Aggreko came in and put in place temporary generators while it fixed the 36-year-old equipment. It was repair work that didn't include any expansion. I even gave CUC three DPL vehicles for its meter readers. In brief, it was broke and it still is broke!

Looking ahead, what happens as major investments begin rolling in or when residential homestead expands or both? Do we raise our red flags and ask them to delay projects slated to move forward? Isn't this what's known as "planning?" Doesn't this entail planning FOR eventualities rather than planning BY what happens in the near term?

Answer: Privatize CUC

It's more the reason to privatize CUC. The agency is bankrupt, its fiscal impotence exacerbated by the local government's inability to cough up \$18 million to pay its power bills. CUC goes on a pipe dream searching for geothermal, solar, and snake oil to try to fit into the system. Could any of them be hooked to the grid of the old power generators? Or is CUC standing on the fence to order another study for this purpose?

An attempt to study privatization of the utility agency is a waste of time and resources. You privatize it when a firm has the financial wherewithal to salvage a disoriented and incompetent team! Such is the status of CUC today, forced to justify its existence that includes useless alternative energy.

If this government is so bankrupt, isn't major and fresh batch of

anchor investments the appropriate paradigm? Why the passivity in perpetuity? It seems we've done nothing but drive everything into the ditch, i.e., control of immigration, minimum wage, retirement program, credit union, CUC, among others.

Apparently, the elected elite is so inebriated with its deficient "do-nothing" attitude it can't lift a finger to do anything right. You would think that they would have secured meaning and context into major economic issues and be insightful and intuitive to the needs of "we the people" and move decisively to ease the sparks of fireworks in the cost of living. It's humiliating even thinking of the obvious disconnect between "we the people" and those on the hill.

Planning for expansion ahead

Starting with the southernmost island, Rota, its people aren't going to sit on the fence and continue paying backbreaking power rates at \$.62 per kilowatt-hour. Nor are the folks ready to endure the special ability of bureaucrats watching progress go by without lifting a finger.

Rota is slated to expand its visitor industry and other businesses. CUC is definitely incapable of meeting the 10 MW on future expansion. Is it fair that we all wait out the incompetence of CUC? Isn't it right that the folks take back what's theirs to begin rebuilding their ruined economy? Isn't affordable and reliable power the single most vital link to encouraging business expansion while easing the hardship of villagers?

Tinian is also ready to move the needle of growth forward in two sectors: hotel expansion of some 400 high-end villas and the military at North Field. The current system is old and its focus is on maintenance at highly costly rates most folks and businesses can't afford. Is it poised to meet future expansion with an arcane system? So where's the benefit for the simple villagers on Tinian? Isn't it time that the people move in decisively and take over their power generation system?

It's all about policy that dictates everything else. If your initial apprehension is to kill the goose that lays the golden egg, then it speaks volumes of your inability to see the forest over the trees or the larger picture. With more misses than hits, what could we rea-

solicited advice to my friend and our delegate to Congress. Do not push your luck with the Chamorro and Carolinian voters—you have already burned your bridges with constituents that were once so loyal to you. These former supporters of yours have a couple of very effective political options, besides the petitions, which have been used elsewhere very powerfully. If it becomes absolutely necessary that we shift our strategy to this option, we will marshal the power of our people to begin the process. Looking at how our people were handling the petition drive, I cannot be more encouraged that we will successfully succeed.

Delegate Sablan's unshakable and submissive loyalty to foreign aliens is his own business and is not the issue that is in disagreement. What NMDs are protesting and perhaps will never consent to 1) To aid and abet in their own cultural demise, 2) Delegate Sablan's total disregard to educate and properly consult with the Chamorros and Carolinians, 3) His cavalier and arrogant attitude about the legitimate concerns of Chamorros and Carolinians, 4) Refusal to take full responsibility for igniting this avoidable and unnecessary controversy, and 5) Arrogantly placing blame on NMDC members for defending themselves from the potential intrusions of other cultural groups into the comfort of our own traditional and cultural sphere. Who will not react to the blatant disregard for their opinions and consent? Why place your own people through these subjugations? Who can say that we do not have the right to protect and promote our cultural existence? What have the Chamorros and Carolinians done to deserve all these malcontents? We have wel-

Questions that need hard answers

To Mr. Ambrose Bennett: No offense, but for a teacher your campaign for marijuana is really not interesting. Try talking about the research studies on marijuana and tobacco, alcohol, drugs, etc. Tell the difference between smoking marijuana and tobacco. How does it affect our health? Provide research information for people to believe you.

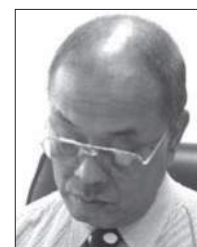
How about searching and sharing the history of other places that made marijuana legal? How did it change their economy and the effects after it was legalized? Did it reduce crime, the use of other drugs, or made it worse? Did it raise more revenue?

Marijuana is an issue that many people would rather not talk

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



sonably expect from half-cocked policies lacking definition, mindfulness, and insightful intuition? Like running in the woods we learn that the step in front of us is the most important one, true? Shall we begin that long journey into a bright new morning?

Use of the Antiquities Act

The NMI can't simply sit idly by without doing due legal diligence in the use of a presidential tool—proclamations and directives—known to have been abused by presidents.

Todd F. Gaziano, a Senior Fellow in Legal Studies and director of the Center for Legal and Judicial Studies of the Heritage Foundation, noted that the Antiquities Act of 1906 and numerous directives were issued in the areas of foreign and defense policy, environmental policy, regulatory review, labor policy, and civil rights.

"A disproportionate number of these executive directives were either illegal or issued in the furtherance of an improper policy or political objective," he pointed out. With Gaziano's mega legal analysis, it's one reason to research whether the use of the Antiquities Act to secure the three islands up north is in fact legal and whether it isn't a violation of our indigenous rights to landownership, including the Covenant Agreement.

It seems our esteemed Delegate Kili is sleeping on the switchboard time and again. It's time he wakes up to the reality of seeming violation that compromises self-government. While at it, please ask Mr. Obama if we could derail his signature healthcare law that has disrupted the lives of millions of Americans across the country, including the NMI. It's time for real representation!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Short-cutting the citizenship process

Editor's Note: Due to its length, this letter is being published in three parts.

Second part of a series

Let us now take a serious look at the practical application of the proposed language contained in Section 2109 of S. 744, granting adjusted immigration status and subsequent U.S. citizenship to more than 12,000 foreign aliens in the Commonwealth. This issue has brought the Chamorros and Carolinians much closer together than any single political conversation. This is so because NMDs are beginning to realize just how atrociously damaging the impact will be upon them and that of their children. Never in the cultural and political history of Chamorros and Carolinians where the threat of cultural annihilation is so imminent than the introduction of S. 744, with its Section 2109 and H.R. 15. As conversations spread all over the Commonwealth about the monstrous and frightening cultural, social, and political genocide to befall upon the Chamorros and Carolinians, our people are now reacting and voicing their complete resentment with their delegate to Washington, Gregorio Sablan, through the petition. Such discontent is evident by the outpouring requests to participate in the petition drive. What group of people will not react knowing that, by the stroke of a presidential signature, the entire ethnic community will be wiped away? A cultural collision in a "climatic-fusion-effect" is very likely should Delegate Sablan's New Year's gift to Chamorros and Carolinians go through Congress. The Commonwealth will be seeing the like of a civil and cultural war, a very unfortunate prospect for such a peaceful and friendly people to be placed in this dreadful predicament by their very own delegate to Congress.

While I am on the subject of representation, let me give an un-

comed all guests into our homes and islands irrespective of origin, and have been very hospitable and gracious, at times to our own disadvantage. However, we have never demonstrated in the streets to register our displeasure and dissatisfaction. Why the speedy attempt to circumvent an already existing federal statute dealing with immigration affecting aliens here in the Commonwealth? After all, the law that these foreign aliens asked for, petitioned on their behalf, lobbied restlessly in favor of and demonstrated throughout the streets on Saipan appealing to Congress for its passage have already been granted to them since May 2008. U.S. Congress' enactment of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 or Public Law 110-229 was due to the overwhelming demand by foreign aliens themselves and different interests' parties supporting their cause, including the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. It is important to point out that the enactment of *Public Law 110-229 makes applicable the U.S. immigration law as defined by the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 that covers legal processes by which foreign aliens must follow to gain adjusted status and eventual citizenship.* The only substantial difference between P.L. 110-229 and S. 744 and H.R. 15 is simply *politics* by shortcutting the already established processes. Public Law 110-229 was what our foreign alien guests asked for back in 2006. Now they must take full ownership of the law.

Daniel O. Quitugua

*Acting president, NMDC
Kannat Tabla, Saipan*

about in the open. But I'm sure many would be interested to know how this will help generate more revenue and reduce crimes.

I not in support of such an issue, but if this is better than casino, I'm interested since our government is desperately in need of fast revenue generating businesses.

So if you want people to support the legalization of marijuana, then you need to answer all the questions above.






Winnie Atalig

San Jose, Tinian

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 85° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Palau	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80

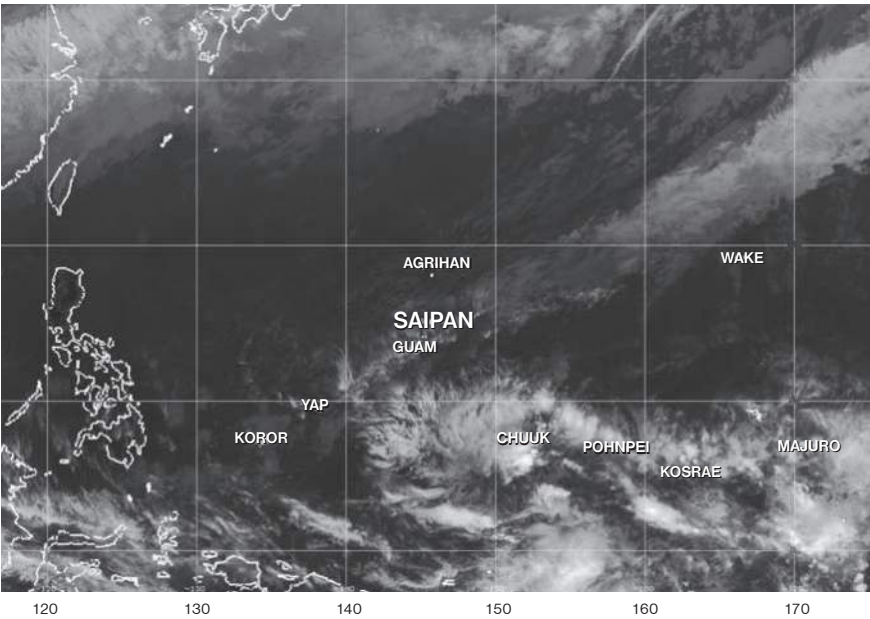
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 73 ▼ 68
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 43 ▼ 23
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 61 ▼ 52
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 83 ▼ 71
London	Showers	▲ 51 ▼ 38
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲ 70 ▼ 48
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 74
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 69 ▼ 52
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 70
New York	Showers	▲ 45 ▼ 31
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 45 ▼ 34
Paris	Showers	▲ 53 ▼ 39
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 47 ▼ 31
Rome	Showers	▲ 61 ▼ 47
Salem	Showers	▲ 45 ▼ 40
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 61 ▼ 47
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 42 ▼ 25
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 44 ▼ 32
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 57 ▼ 31

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
4:10 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
10:18 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
4:51 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
10:36 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 3N130E through a tropical disturbance centered south of Chuuk near 5N150E then continues east-southeastward just south of Kosrae to another circulation south of Majuro near 3N172E then turns to the south to end near EQ173E. Another surface trough extends northeastward from the circulation south of Majuro to near 7N178E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present across portions of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae states between the equator and 9N from 144E to the date line. A cold front stretches from northeast of Wake Island at 25N170E to 20N159E then continues southwestward as a shear line to end east of the Marianas at 14N149E. Patchy clouds and showers are seen along and up to 350 miles northwest of these boundaries.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:40 AM	6:22 PM
Thursday	6:39 AM	6:22 PM
Friday	6:39 AM	6:23 PM
Saturday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM
Sunday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:49 PM	9:06 AM
Thursday	10:41 PM	9:49 AM
Friday	11:36 PM	10:34 AM
Saturday		11:23 AM
Sunday	12:32 AM	12:16 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2014

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5039 1:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5038 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29) DZ104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN DZ101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily DZ103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:00am 8:00am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:20pm 3:00am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:00am 10:55pm Daily via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:30pm 5 via Guam UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:50pm 1, 4, 7 via Guam UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:45am 1:30am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 7 via Guam UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-TIANJIN (TSN) D2884 10:45am 2:45pm Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24	TIANJIN (TSN)-SAIPAN D2885 4:45pm 12:20am+1 Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH) D2880 4:30pm 8:00pm Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27	HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN D2881 10:00pm 5:15am+1 Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27
SAIPAN-WUHAN (WUH) D2882 11:00am 3:15pm Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26	WUHAN (WUH)-SAIPAN D2883 5:15pm 12:20am+1 Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

SANTA RITA, Guam—Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert and his wife Darleen visited Naval Base Guam and quality of life facilities during a brief visit to the island on Feb. 10.

The CNO and his wife toured facilities that make a difference in the day-to-day lives of Guam sailors and their families. They started their morning at the base's Fleet and Family Support Center and state-of-the-art Charles King Fitness Center. They also walked through the nearly completed U.S. Naval Hospital Guam, which is currently being constructed.

Additionally, Greenert and his wife stopped by the Department of Defense Educational Activity Guam High School where they took the opportunity to meet with students and learn more about their future endeavors.

"Everything everybody does in the Navy today is important," Greenert said to a roomful of students and school officials. "What's most important for our country is the security, prosperity, and economy of the Asia-Pacific, and Guam is in the middle of it all."

While in Guam, Greenert also filmed another episode for Conversation with a Shipmate. During the filming he fielded questions about recent misconduct incidents throughout the military where he emphasized the importance for service members to remain ethical regardless of the challenges they may face.

"You cannot give up your integrity," Greenert said. "It's so important in the Navy, but it's beyond the Navy, it's your life. It's the foundation of how our Navy through decades, through centuries has operated. The ability to trust one another and that trust is founded on having integrity."

"I'd like to thank our sailors, our civilians and the families that support them for serving our country, for serving our Navy and



Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert, right, shoots an interview with USS *Frank Cable* Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Brandon Shelander at the Sumay Cove Marina on U.S. Naval Base Guam in Santa Rita Feb. 10.

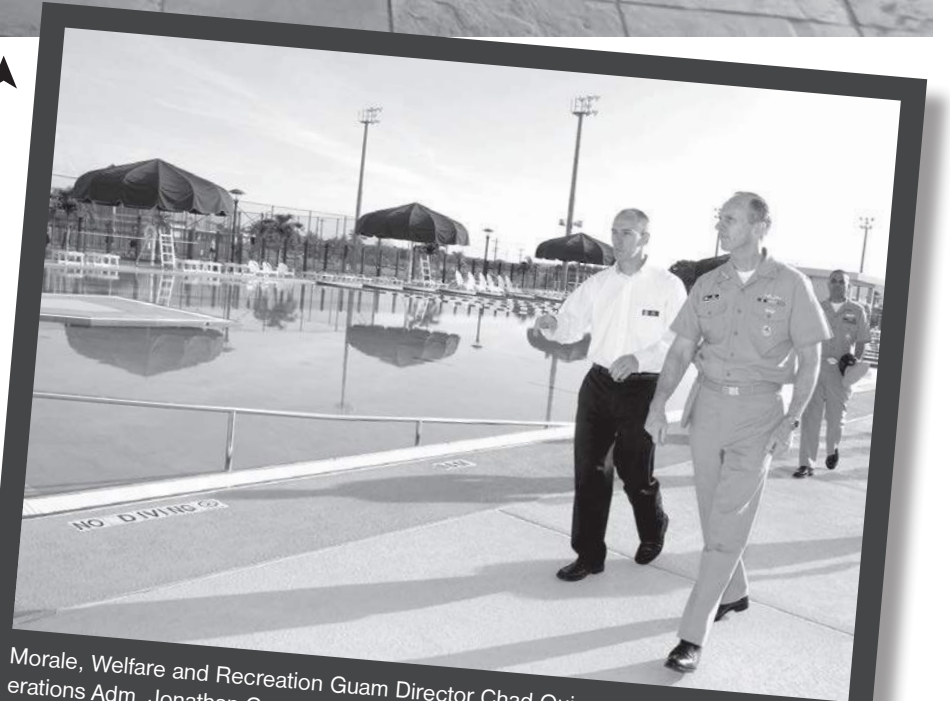
SENIOR CHIEF MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST JASON MORRIS

Chief of Naval Operations visits Naval Base Guam

By **JESSE LEON GUERRERO**
JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

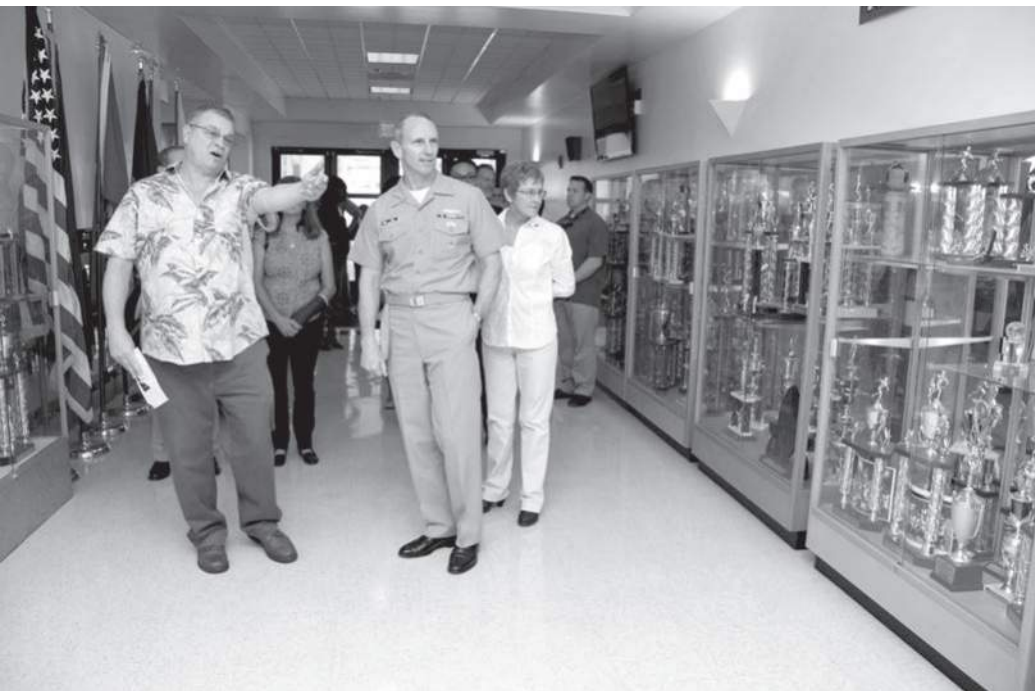
making it what it is today," Greenert said during the interview. "Our Navy is the best Navy in the world and it will be in the future."

Greenert is en route to Malaysia and the Philippine Islands where he will engage with military counterparts and defense leaders.



Morale, Welfare and Recreation Guam Director Chad Quinn takes Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert on a guided tour of the Charles King Fitness Center onboard U.S. Naval Base Guam Feb. 10. Greenert was on island en route to Malaysia and the Philippine Islands where he will engage with military and defense leaders.

U.S. NAVY/JESSE LEON GUERRERO



Guam High School principal Phil Keim presents the school's awards and other showcased memorabilia to Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert during a tour of the school in Agaña Heights Feb. 10.

U.S. NAVY/JESSE LEON GUERRERO



Fleet and Family Support Center Guam director Phillip Whitehall and FFSC Guam Chief of Services Pat Scott discuss the facility's daily operations and concerns with Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert during a tour of the facility onboard U.S. Naval Base Guam Feb. 10.

U.S. NAVY/JESSE LEON GUERRERO

Business

White House: Stimulus bill was good for economy

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif. (AP)—The costly \$787 billion spending bill that President Barack Obama signed into law soon after taking office boosted the economy and helped avoid another Great Depression, the White House said in a status report on Monday's fifth anniversary of the law's enactment.

Republican leaders in Congress took note of the anniversary, too, but argued that the bill spent too much for too little in return.

White House economic adviser Jason Furman said the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act made other targeted investments that will pay dividends for years to come.

By itself, the stimulus bill saved or created an average of 1.6 million jobs a year for four years through the end of 2012, Furman said in a White House blog post.

Half of the total fiscal support for the economy, or about \$689 billion, from the recovery act and subsequent measures was in the form of tax cuts directed

mostly at families. The remainder was spent on such things as rebuilding roads and bridges, preventing teacher layoffs and providing temporary help for people who lost their jobs or needed other assistance because of the poor economy.

The report said recovery act spending will have a positive effect on long-run growth, boost the economy's potential output and ultimately offset much of the law's initial cost.

More than 40,000 miles of roads and more than 2,700 bridges have been upgraded, nearly 700 drinking water systems serving more than 48 million people

have been brought into compliance with federal clean water standards and high-speed Internet was introduced to about 20,000 community institutions.

"While these figures are substantial, they still nevertheless understate the full magnitude of the administration's response to the crisis," Furman wrote.

He noted that the report focused solely on the effects of fiscal legislation. It did not evaluate other administration policies that aided the recovery, such as stabilizing the financial system, rescuing the auto industry and supporting the housing sector.

Republicans were in less of a

mood to celebrate.

"The 'stimulus' has turned out to be a classic case of big promises and big spending with little results," House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said in a written statement. "Five years and hundreds of billions of dollars later, millions of families are still asking 'Where are the jobs?'"

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., argued that Obama could put the nation's finances on a more solid footing and create jobs by taking steps to roll back regulations and finally approve the Keystone XL pipeline project from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico.



This Feb. 17, 2009 file photo shows President Barack Obama picking up the first pen to sign the economic stimulus bill during a ceremony in the Museum of Nature and Science in Denver.

Train accidents stir worries about crude transport

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP)—At least 10 times since 2008, freight trains hauling oil across North America have derailed and spilled significant quantities of crude, with most of the accidents touching off fires or catastrophic explosions.

The derailments released almost 3 million gallons of oil, nearly twice as much as the largest pipeline spill in the U.S. since at least 1986. And the deadliest wreck killed 47 people in the town of Lac-Mégantic, Quebec.

Those findings, from an Associated Press review of U.S. and Canadian accident records, underscore a lesser-known danger of America's oil boom, which is changing the global energy balance and raising urgent safety questions closer to home.

Experts say recent efforts to

improve the safety of oil shipments belie an unsettling fact: With increasing volumes of crude now moving by rail, it's become impossible to send oil-hauling trains to refineries without passing major population centers, where more lives and property are at risk.

Adding to the danger is the high volatility of the light, sweet crude from the fast-growing Bakken oil patch in Montana and North Dakota, where many of the trains originate. Because it contains more natural gas than heavier crude, Bakken oil can have a lower ignition point. Of the six oil trains that derailed and caught fire since 2008, four came from the Bakken and each caused at least one explosion. That includes the accident at Lac-Mégantic, which spilled an estimated 1.6 million gallons

and set off a blast that levelled a large section of the town.

After recent fiery derailments in Quebec, Alabama, North Dakota and New Brunswick, companies and regulators in the U.S. and Canada are pursuing an array of potential changes such as slowing or rerouting trains, upgrading rupture-prone tank cars and bolstering fire departments. Company executives were expected to offer a set of voluntary safety measures in the coming days at the request of U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx.

"I'm absolutely positive the railway industry will come up with techniques to define how to minimize risk," said Allan Zarembski who leads the rail-safety program at the University of Delaware. "The key word is 'minimize.' You can't eliminate risk."

Older Americans are early winners under health law

CHICAGO (AP)—For many older Americans who lost jobs during the recession, the quest for health care has been one obstacle after another. They're unwanted by employers, rejected by insurers, struggling to cover rising medical costs and praying to reach Medicare age before a health crisis.

These luckless people, most in their 50s and 60s, have emerged this month as early winners under the nation's new health insurance system. Along with their peers who are self-employed or whose jobs do not offer insurance, they have been signing up for coverage in large numbers, submitting new-patient forms at doctor's offices and filling prescriptions at pharmacies.

"I just cried I was so relieved," said Maureen Grey, a 58-year-old Chicagoan who finally saw a doctor this month

after a fall in September left her in constant pain. Laid off twice from full-time jobs in the past five years, she saw her income drop from \$60,000 to \$17,800 a year. Now doing temp work, she was uninsured for 18 months before she chose a marketplace plan for \$68 a month.

Americans ages 55 to 64 make up 31 percent of new enrollees in the new health insurance marketplaces, the largest segment by age group, according to the federal government's latest figures. They represent a glimmer of success for President Barack Obama's beleaguered law.

The Great Recession hit them hard and for some its impact has lingered.

Aging boomers are more likely to be in debt as they enter retirement than were previous generations, with many hav-

ing purchased more expensive homes with smaller down payments, said economist Olivia Mitchell of University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. One in five has unpaid medical bills and 17 percent are underwater with their home values. Fourteen percent are uninsured.

As of December, 46 percent of older jobseekers were among the long-term unemployed compared with less than 25 percent before the recession.

And those financial setbacks happened just as their health care needs became more acute. Americans in their mid-50s to mid-60s are more likely to be diagnosed with diabetes than other age groups, younger or older, accounting for 3 in 10 of the adult diabetes diagnoses in the United States each year. And every year after age 50, the rate of cancer diagnosis climbs.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil price above \$100 on US heating fuel demand

The price of oil extended gains above \$100 a barrel Monday as the cold weather in the United States increased demand for heating fuels and solid Chinese credit numbers eased concerns over the world's second-biggest economy. By midday, benchmark U.S. crude for March delivery was up 62 cents to \$100.92 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Friday, the Nymex contract fell 5 cents to close at \$100.30.

Trade ban has Russia's knickers in a twist

MOSCOW (AP)—A trade ban on lacy lingerie has Russian consumers and their neighbors with their knickers in a twist. The ban will outlaw any underwear containing less than 6 percent cotton from being imported, made, or sold in Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. And it has struck a chord in societies where La Perla and Victoria's Secret are panty paradises compared

to Soviet-era cotton underwear, which was often about as flattering and shapely as drapery. On Sunday, 30 women protesters in Kazakhstan were arrested and thrown into police vans while wearing lace underwear on their heads and shouting "Freedom to panties!"

Market focus on Italy's change of government

LONDON (AP)—Global markets were steady on Monday as investors sought clarity over Italy's political and economic future and took to the sidelines as Wall Street remained shut for a holiday. Now that Italy's President Giorgio Napolitano has asked Matteo Renzi to form a new government, investors want to see how quickly he tackles reforms needed to get the economy going. Renzi, who is the mayor of Florence and poised to be the country's youngest premier at 39 years of age, engineered last week's ouster of Enrico Letta, who had only been Italy's leader for 10 months. Renzi argued a change of government was needed to get on with reforms.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
16,154.39	1,838.63	4,244.02
+126.80	+8.80	+3.35
+0.79%	+0.48%	+0.08%

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	1.1064	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7546
British Pound	0.5975	Indian Rupee	62.1488
Canadian Dollar	1.0968	Indonesian Rupiah	11773.8
Chinese Yuan	6.065	Japanese Yen	102.5547
Euro	0.7292	Malaysian Ringgit	3.3054
		New Zealand Dollar	1.1985
		Philippine Peso	44.6055
		Singapore Dollar	1.2621
		South Korean Won	1065.8
		Swiss Franc	0.8919
		Taiwan Dollar	30.301
		Thailand Baht	32.4668

Nation

Pa. Craigslist killing suspect claims 22 others

SUNBURY, Pa. (AP)—A Pennsylvania woman charged with her newlywed husband with killing a man they met through Craigslist admitted to the slaying in a jailhouse interview with a newspaper and said she has killed more than 20 other people across the country, claims police said they are investigating.

In an interview with *The*

Daily Item in Sunbury, 19-year-old Miranda Barbour said she wants to plead guilty to killing Troy LaFerrara in November. She also said in the interview she has killed at least 22 other people from Alaska to North Carolina in the last six years as part of her involvement in a satanic cult.

"I feel it is time to get all of this out. I don't care if people

believe me. I just want to get it out," Barbour told the newspaper for a story published Saturday night.

Sunbury police Chief Steve Mazzeo told the newspaper that investigators were aware of Miranda Barbour's claims of involvement in other murders. He said they are "seriously concerned" and have contacted police in other jurisdictions.

In a statement issued Sunday, the FBI's Philadelphia division said it had been in contact with Sunbury police and "will offer any assistance requested in the case."

Miranda Barbour's lawyer did not immediately return messages from *The Associated Press* left at his office Sunday. Mazzeo did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment left at his office Sunday.

Attorneys for Barbour and her husband, 22-year-old Elytte Barbour, have both sought psychiatric evaluations for their clients.

Miranda Barbour's attorney also asked a judge last week to toss out statements she made before she was charged. Public defender Ed Greco said in the motion that Barbour wasn't afforded an attorney despite repeated requests during two police interviews.

Barbour said in the jailhouse interview that she wanted to plead guilty at her arraignment, but that Greco pleaded not guilty for her.

Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty for both defendants in LaFerrara's killing.

Miranda Barbour, a petite

woman with long brown hair, told investigators she met the 6-foot-2, 278-pound victim after he responded to her Craigslist ad offering companionship for money.

Elytte Barbour told investigators they committed the crime because they wanted to kill someone together, according to court papers. The couple, who were married in North Carolina and moved to Pennsylvania about three weeks before the crime, told police Miranda Barbour stabbed LaFerrara in the front seat of her car while her husband held a cord around his neck.

1 month after spill, W. Virginians wary of water

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)—More than a month after chemicals seeped into West Virginia's biggest water supply, Jeanette Maddox would rather bundle up, drive to a shopping center parking lot and fill jugs of water from the spigot of a tanker truck than trust the tap in her kitchen.

This is Maddox's new routine three times a week, what she considers a necessary burden to feel safe drinking water, cooking with it and making coffee.

For weeks, government officials have said the running water in nine counties is suitable for all daily needs. But Maddox, like many of the 300,000 residents whose water was contaminated Jan. 9, is not convinced.

She notes that officials waited four to 10 days, depending on the neighborhood, before allowing people to use their water. In the days right after Freedom Industries leaked chemicals into the Elk River in Charleston, officials said the water should be used only for flushing toilets and fighting fires.

Residents have struggled to track, let alone trust, mixed messages and muddled information from government of-

ficials and Freedom Industries, the company involved. Despite public pressure, officials have been reluctant to call the water "safe" and have started arguing that the term is subjective. Instead, they use phrases such as "appropriate to use."

"Well, they won't use the word 'safe,'" said Maddox, who lives with her two daughters and two grandsons in Charleston. "But, the water is 'OK.' We don't know that."

Maddox is not alone, as visible signs of doubt about the water are everywhere.

In Charleston, eateries display signs that say, "We're cooking with bottled water." The chemical licorice smell still wafts out of some showers, toilets and taps in homes and businesses. The smell resurfaced in five schools Feb. 5 and 6, and the district temporarily shut them down. In one case, a teacher fainted and went to the hospital.

Hours after two of the schools closed Feb. 5, an official with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention gave a broad endorsement of the water, saying everyone, pregnant women included, could use it.

Up to that point, pregnant women had received con-

flicting guidance. Days after thousands of people were cleared to start drinking from faucets, federal officials advised that pregnant women should consider a different source of water.

The nine-county region was cleared to use the water before Freedom Industries revealed that a second chemical, stripped PPH, was in the tank that spilled.

Crude MCHM, the first chemical discovered in the spill, and stripped PPH, are used to clean coal. Little is known about their toxicity, in the short or long term. Neither is considered hazardous by federal standards. Only a handful of studies exist for crude MCHM, and they were on lab animals.

Today, doctors are still advising some patients, such as people with chronic conditions or compromised immune systems, to avoid the water on a case-by-case basis, said Kanawha County Health Officer Dr. Rahul Gupta.

Outside water continues to be brought in by tanker trucks and military vehicles, under orders by Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin's administration. The public still demands it, Tomblin said.



In this Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2013 file photo, Miranda K. Barbour is led into District Judge Ben Apfelbaum's office in Sunbury, Pa., by Sunbury policeman Travis Bremigen.

Okla. pharmacy responds to Mo. execution drug suit

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—An Oklahoma pharmacy has submitted a sealed response to a Missouri death row inmate's lawsuit accusing it of illegally providing Missouri with a made-to-order drug to be used in his lethal injection.

The Apothecary Shoppe, of Tulsa, filed its response to Michael Taylor's lawsuit last week after getting permission from U.S. District Judge Terrence Kern to keep its response sealed. The company hasn't publicly acknowledged that it supplies a compounded version of pentobarbital to Missouri for use in lethal injections, as Taylor alleges, and says it can't because of a Missouri law requiring the identities of those on the state's execution team to be kept confidential.

"It's based on Missouri law,"

was all that one of the pharmacy's attorneys, Michael Lewis, would say about the case when reached by phone Monday.

Kern issued a temporary injunction barring the pharmacy from selling the compounded drug to Missouri, if it has been doing so. He scheduled a hearing for Tuesday to weigh arguments about whether the pharmacy's response should remain sealed. The hearing will remain closed to the public pending a ruling on the matter.

Taylor, 47, is scheduled to die on Feb. 26. He pleaded guilty to abducting, raping and stabbing to death a 15-year-old Kansas City girl in 1989.

In his lawsuit, Taylor alleges that Missouri corrections officials turned to The Apothecary Shoppe to supply compounded pentobarbital because the only licensed manufacturer of the

drug refuses to provide it for lethal injections. That company, Illinois-based Akorn Inc., agreed to that condition when it bought the exclusive rights to the drug in January 2012 from a Danish company that had produced it under the trade name Nembutal.

Taylor contends that several recent executions in which compounded pentobarbital was used showed it would likely cause him "severe, unnecessary, lingering and ultimately inhumane pain."

Within 20 seconds of receiving his lethal injection on Jan. 9 at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary, 38-year-old Michael Lee Wilson said: "I feel my whole body burning." This statement describes "a sensation consistent with receipt of contaminated pentobarbital," Taylor alleges.

ACROSS THE NATION

Over 3 days, volunteers pack 2 million meals

NOVI, Mich. (AP)—They came from all walks of life—Girl Scouts troops, National Guard units, financial planning offices, Zumba classes—to spend three days packing food for thousands of hungry children they'll never meet. The 2 Million Meals effort, the brainchild of a Detroit-area pastor, concluded Sunday. The results: 8,810 volunteers put together 2,029,536 meals to be shipped to El Salvador, Haiti and the Philippines. The mixtures of rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables and 21 vitamins and minerals will provide one meal a day for a year to 5,560 children.

2 Calif. Highway Patrol officers killed in crash

KINGSBURG, Calif. (AP)—The California Highway Patrol was mourning the loss of two officers Monday after their squad car flipped over while responding to a multi-vehicle crash. Officers Brian Law, 34, of Clovis, and Juan Gonzalez, 33, of Fresno, were heading to the crash on state

Route 99 near the Central Valley town of Kingsburg when they swerved to avoid a person in the road and lost control of the vehicle, the CHP said. California Gov. Jerry Brown and first lady Anne Gust Brown sent their regards Monday to the fallen officers and their loved ones. Flags will be flown at half-staff at the State Capitol in Sacramento.

Mother of missing Memphis baby charged with murder

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—A body discovered in a ditch over the weekend is that of a 7-week-old baby who went missing more than five weeks ago, and the infant's mother has been charged with first-degree murder, Memphis Police said Monday. The physical description and clothing on the body discovered Sunday in Millington, about a half-hour north of Memphis, matched that of Aniston Walker, who was reported missing Jan. 9, police said in a news release. Police did not say how the baby died. An autopsy was being conducted Monday.

Asia

Thai police remove 100 protesters from rally site

BANGKOK (AP)—Thai police detained and removed about 100 anti-government protesters who were camped out near a government ministry in Bangkok on Tuesday in a major effort to push back demonstrators who have occupied key sites around the capital.

Since the protesters starting blocking government offices late last year and major intersections a month ago, police have avoided dispersing demonstrators for fear of unleashing violence.

But on Monday, the government's special security command center announced it would reclaim five protest sites around the city for public use, a move made possible under a state of emergency declared in January.

Thousands of police officers, including anti-riot squads, were deployed across the city in an operation the government called "Peace for Bangkok."

The protesters want Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra to resign and make way for an

unelected people's council to implement reforms they say are needed to end corruption.

Protest leader Rawee Mat-chamadon said that police rounded up about 100 demonstrators outside the Energy Ministry, north of the city, and took them away in police trucks for questioning at a police base in Bangkok's northern outskirts on Tuesday. Live footage on Tnews cable television showed no resistance from the protesters during the operation early

Tuesday morning.

Still, the moves by police raise chances of violent outbursts. In previous weeks of protests, at least 10 people have been killed and scores injured.

At another operation site near the Golden Mount, a temple on a hill, anti-riot police moved in to round up more anti-government protesters and used bulldozers to clear out a makeshift stage. Gunshots were heard during the operation and a police officer was seen injured on a

live television report on FMTV cable channel.

Near the Government House, police officers were asking protesters to leave.

"It is necessary for the police to return peace to the society and unblock the road in order to let the students go to school," a policeman said through a loudspeaker. "We beg you not to do against the

law or defy our operation."

The protesters had reinforced the numbers around the Government House to keep Yingluck from returning to work there. The caretaker premier has dissolved the parliament and had been forced to work at the temporary office in Bangkok's suburbs after protesters surrounded her office in central Bangkok demanding her resignation.



Angry Thai farmers react, after the talks with Finance Minister Kittirat Na Ranong, on the outskirts of Bangkok, Thailand, Monday, Feb. 17, 2014.

Afghan leader orders changes to women's rights law

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Monday ordered changes to a draft of new criminal legislation in response to an international outcry warning it would severely limit justice for victims of domestic abuse, his spokesman said.

Afghanistan's parliament had passed a new criminal procedure code that would ban relatives from testifying against alleged abusers. While the legislation awaited signature from Karzai, human rights organizations and several of Afghanistan's Western allies—including the U.S. and European Union—voiced strong concerns it would effectively curb prosecutions involving violence against women, where relatives are often the only witnesses.

Karzai's spokesman, Aimal Faizi, said the president was "well aware" of the criticism and decided at a Cabinet meeting Monday that the legislation must be changed.

"We are not going to allow

any such law to come into force unless the necessary amendments are made," Faizi said, suggesting that there may have been issues with how the area in question—Article 26—was translated into English.

While the Ministry of Justice will decide on how to amend the text, Faizi stressed the resulting legislation will be clear.

"This law will not bar any relative or any family member to testify against each other or another member of family," he told The Associated Press. "It will be up to them. They will have the freedom."

Manizha Naderi, executive director of Women for Afghan Women, said she was "absolutely thrilled" by the move.

"Our tireless advocacy for the last few weeks paid off," she said. "This is what we wanted—for the bill to go back to the Ministry of Justice for revision."

The U.S. Embassy called Karzai's order a "welcome response" to concerns raised

by many.

"We look forward to the final passage of a criminal procedure code that protects the access to justice of all Afghans," it said in a statement.

And Heather Barr, a Human Rights Watch researcher, said it was "good news" that the government realized there was a serious problem with the code, but added in an email that she looks forward "to seeing the actual revision and will look closely to see whether it solves the problem."

Women in Afghanistan have won back many of the rights they lost during Taliban rule from 1996 to 2001, when the Islamic movement was ousted by an American invasion for sheltering al-Qaida militants following the Sept. 11 attacks against the United States.

Under the Taliban, girls were barred from attending school, women were forced to stay indoors and cover their heads and faces with burqas.

There are fears that many of

those freedoms may shrink as foreign forces depart by the end of this year and much of the international aid they brought to Afghanistan goes with them.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Asylum seeker dies in Papua New Guinea camp

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—An asylum seeker was killed and scores were injured when a violent protest ended with a breakout from an immigration detention camp run by Australia on the South Pacific island nation of Papua New Guinea, an official said Tuesday. One asylum seeker had died from head injuries as he was taken by ambulance to the hospital, Australian Immigration Minister Scott Morrison said. It wasn't clear what his nationality was, or how he had sustained the injuries. Two other seriously injured asylum seekers—one with a gunshot wound and the other with a fractured skull—would be flown to Australia for medical treatment, Morrison said.

South Korea resort roof collapses, killing 10

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A resort auditorium's roof loaded down with snow and rain collapsed during a welcoming ceremony for South Korean university freshmen, killing 10 and in-

UN letter to Kim Jong Un warns on accountability

GENEVA (AP)—A U.N. panel warned North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Monday that he may be held accountable for orchestrating widespread crimes against civilians in the secretive Asian nation, ranging from systematic executions to torture, rape and mass starvation.

It is unusual for a U.N. report to directly implicate a nation's leader. But in a letter accompanying a yearlong investigative report, the chairman of a three-member U.N. commission of inquiry, retired Australian judge Michael Kirby, directly warned Kim that international prosecution is needed "to render accountable all those, including possibly yourself, who may be responsible for crimes against humanity."

"Even without being directly involved in crimes against humanity, a military commander may be held responsible for crimes against humanity committed by forces under the commander's effective command and control," Kirby wrote.

He urged Kim to take "all necessary and reasonable measures" to stop crimes against humanity and insure that they are properly inves-

tigated and prosecuted. Kirby added, however, there was no indication the North Korea would do so.

The investigative commission's 372-page report is a wide-ranging indictment of North Korea for policies including political prison camps with 80,000 to 120,000 people, state-sponsored abductions of North Korean, Japanese and other nationals, and lifelong indoctrination.

"They are wrongs that shock the conscience of humanity," Kirby said, comparing them with Nazi atrocities.

Details of the findings were reported Friday by The Associated Press.

Speaking to reporters after the release of the report, Kirby said it was impossible not to include Kim's name in the list of suspects because of what he described as the government's totalitarian nature.

Kirby referred to prison camps, which North Korea says do not exist. "However, the satellite images show the prison camps and we had testimony, which is quoted in the report, which tells the stories of the prison camps" that include starvation and stunted growth in babies, he said.

juring more than 100, officials said Tuesday. Emergency staff worked through the night to pull people from beneath twisted metal and other debris and rush the injured on stretchers to waiting ambulances. Snow, sleet and icy roads hampered rescue operations. The collapse happened late Monday. About 560 students from Busan University of Foreign Studies had gathered for a two-day freshman orientation at the Manua Ocean Resort in the southeastern city of Gyeongju.

5 of 7 missing divers found alive in Indonesia

BALI, Indonesia (AP)—Five of the seven Japanese scuba divers who had been missing off Indonesia's resort island of Bali since last week were found alive Monday, police said. Local police chief Maj. Nyoman Suarsika said the five women were discovered by fishermen on a coral reef near Nusa Penida island. He said one person was in critical condition and was flown by helicopter to a hospital in Jimbaran, a fishing port. The four others would be evacuated by boat, he said.

World

Ethiopian co-pilot hijacks plane to Geneva

GENEVA (AP)—It seemed like a routine overnight flight until the Ethiopian Airlines jetliner went into a dive and oxygen masks dropped from the ceiling. Only then did the terrified passengers—bound for Italy from Addis Ababa—realize something was terribly wrong.

The co-pilot had locked his captain from the cockpit, commandeered the plane, and headed for Geneva, where he used a rope to lower himself out of a window, then asked for political asylum.

Authorities say a prison cell is

more likely.

One passenger said the hijacker threatened to crash the plane if the pilot didn't stop pounding on the locked door. Another said he was terrified "for hours" Monday as the plane careened across the sky.

"It seemed like it was falling from the sky," 45-year-old Italian Diego CarPELLi said of the Boeing 767-300.

The jetliner carrying 200 passengers and crew took off from the Ethiopian capital on a flight to Milan and then Rome, but sent a distress message over

Sudan that it had been hijacked, an Ethiopian official said. Once the plane was over Europe, two Italian fighter jets and later French jets were scrambled to accompany it.

Italian Air Force Col. Girolamo Iadicicchio said the order to scramble came from NATO to ensure the plane didn't harm national security and didn't stray off-route.

The plane landed in Geneva at about 6 a.m. (0500 GMT). Officials said no one on the flight was injured and the hijacker was taken into custody after surrendering to

Swiss police.

"The pilot went to the toilet and (the co-pilot) locked himself in the cockpit," Geneva airport chief executive Robert Deillon told reporters. He "wanted asylum in Switzerland."

It wasn't immediately clear why he chose Switzerland, where Swiss voters recently demanded

curbs on immigration. However, Italy has a reputation among many Africans as not being hospitable to asylum seekers.

Ethiopian Airlines is owned by Ethiopia's government, which has faced persistent criticism over its rights record and its alleged intolerance of political dissent.

The co-pilot was identified as

Hailemedhin Abera, a 31-year-old Ethiopian man who had worked for Ethiopian Airlines for five years and had no criminal record, said Ethiopia's communications minister, Redwan Hussein, adding that Ethiopia will seek his extradition. Geneva police said he claimed he felt threatened at home.

A look at plane hijackings by Ethiopians

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)—A glance at previous hijackings involving Ethiopians:

■ **Nov. 25, 1991:** Two men and an Ethiopian woman brandishing fake hand grenades hijacked an Ethiopian Airlines jet carrying 88 people on a domestic flight, then freed all those aboard after landing in Djibouti.

■ **Aug. 28-30, 1992:** Four Ethiopians hijack an Ethiopian Airlines jet on a domestic flight and force it to fly to Djibouti, where they release their hostages. They surrender after flying to Italy and asking for asylum.

■ **Feb. 11, 1993:** An Ethiopian man smuggled a pistol onto a plane and hijacked a Lufthansa flight going from Frankfurt to Addis Ababa. He demanded it be flown to the U.S. because he was denied a visa. He surrendered to au-

thorities in New York after the plane landed at John F. Kennedy International Airport.

■ **Nov. 9, 1995:** An Ethiopian man trying to avoid going home used a knife from a food tray to commandeer an Olympic Airlines jet from Australia, where he was being deported from, just before it landed in Athens, Greece. Police overpowered the hijacker with no injuries to the 114 people on board.

■ **March 17, 1995:** Five armed men seized an Ethiopian Airlines jetliner and demanded the plane be flown to Greece and then Sweden. It was instead diverted to Al Obeid, 300 miles (480 kilometers) west of Khartoum, Sudan where the hijackers surrendered, ending a 24-hour standoff after Sudan promised to help them seek asylum in Sweden.

■ **November 1996:** Hi-

jackers storm cockpit of flight from Ethiopia to Ivory Coast via Kenya, demanding to go to Australia. The plane runs out of fuel and crashes off the island nation of Comoros, killing 125 of the 175 people aboard.

■ **April 26, 2001:** Five military pilot trainees who flunked flight school reportedly wrested control of a plane during a flight from Bahr Dar, in northwestern Ethiopia, to Addis Ababa and demanded to be flown to Saudi Arabia. The plane didn't have enough fuel so it landed in neighboring Sudan.

■ **June 9, 2002:** Two passengers armed with small knives and an explosive device attempted to hijack a domestic Ethiopian flight but were shot and killed by in-flight security, according to the Aviation Safety Network.

Fears of more protest clashes high in Venezuela

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Fears of more clashes between pro- and anti-government supporters ratcheted up in Venezuela as both sides prepared to march in the capital Tuesday and opposition leader Leonardo Lopez dared authorities to arrest him when he reappears in public.

The competing demonstrations loomed one day after President Nicolas Maduro's government gave three U.S. Embassy officials 48 hours to leave the country, claiming they were supporting what he says are opposition plots to topple his socialist administration. The U.S. denied that.

Supporters of Lopez, who is Maduro's strongest foe and the target of an arrest order, rerouted their protest march away from the central plaza in Caracas where pro-government oil workers planned their own demonstration.

The Venezuelan government accuses the Obama administration of siding with student protesters it has blamed for vio-

lence that led to three deaths last week. Maduro claims the U.S. is trying to stir up unrest to regain dominance of South America's largest oil producer.

In Washington, the State Department said allegations that the U.S. is helping to organize protests are "baseless and false" and called on Venezuela's government to engage the opposition in "meaningful dialogue."

Foreign Minister Elias Jaua said Monday that the three senior U.S. consular officers are being expelled because they tried to infiltrate Venezuelan universities under the cover of doing visa outreach. Maduro has expelled American diplomats twice before.

The State Department said Monday it hadn't received any formal notification of the expulsions of the three senior officials, who Jaua said were all second secretaries.

Hundreds of students have spent the past week in the streets of Caracas alternating between peaceful protests by day and

pitched battles with police at night in unrest fed by hardships that include rampant crime, 56 percent inflation and shortages of basic goods.

Three people were killed in clashes Wednesday—two students and a pro-government demonstrator. News videos and photographs taken at the time indicate at least one of the students was killed when pro-government militia members fired directly into a crowd of protesters.

On Monday they marched to Venezuela's telecommunications regulator to demand it lift all restrictions on the news media's coverage of the unfolding political crisis. Police repelled the activists with tear gas and rubber bullets, but there were no reports of serious injuries.

Later Monday, a crowd of anti-government activists wrested a handcuffed opposition politician away from security forces following a raid on the headquarters of Lopez's Popular Will party.



Passengers are evacuated from a hijacked Ethiopian Airlines Plane on the airport in Geneva, Switzerland, Monday, Feb. 17, 2014. AP

Death and Funeral Announcement

†**Linda Oronigo Bhuiyan**

July 24, 1966 – February 17, 2014

Survived By:

Husband: Nurul Islam Bhuiyan

Parents: Theodoro Saures Oronigo
Maria Taisakan Fitipol

Brother and Sisters:

Rita O. Kim
†Vicenta O. Eagleson
Digna O. Otuu
†Juan F. Oronigo
Juana O. Somol
†Francisca O. Hernandez
Rosa O. Pehnos
†Fliscia O. Sahagon

Brothers and Sisters -In-Law:

Faruk Bhuiyan
Motin Bhuiyan
Ranuara Begum
Hosnara Begum
Hasina Begum
Halima Begum

Memorial Services will be held on Thursday, February 20, 2014
at Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel
from 10:00AM to 11:00AM.

Burial Service will follow immediately at Tanapag Cemetery.

Thank You
The Family

Campus Life

GCA students soar high in PGFC and Math Court

The administration, faculty and staff, and parents of Grace Christian Academy would like to extend their congratulations to the following winners and everyone who participated in the February Primary Grades Forensic Conference and Math Court competitions.

We would like to thank all the parents, volunteer judges, and coaches for their support and all the help they have given. The GCA family would like to especially thank the GCA competitors for doing the best they can in accomplishing their goals. Below is the list of all the winners.

K-2 DIVISION

Impromptu Speaking A

Nestor Ablog Jr., 1st place
Sara Elizabeth Keaton, 2nd place
Maria Natsuko Takeda, 3rd place

Impromptu Speaking B

Julianna Rue Magtalas, 1st place
Juruel Neilan Magtalas, 2nd place
Rex Adam Pixley, 3rd place
Briston James Jones, 4th place
Julia Christine Jinang, 5th place

Readers Forum Masters A

Juruel Neilan Magtalas, 2nd place
Timothy Neal, 5th place



Grace Christian Academy's February Primary Grades Forensic Conference winners.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Readers Forum Masters B

Kei Lizama, 3rd place
Moira Grace Ernest, 4th place
Rex Adam Pixley, 5th place

Eunice Nicole Pagaduan, 4th place

Kyra Michelle Concepcion, 5th place

Humorous Interpretation A

Tae Hee Kim, 2nd place
Lance Andrei Lerio, 3rd place

Duo Interpretation B

Azriel Fatialofa, 3rd place

Dramatic Interpretation A

William Matthew Cano, 2nd place
Moira Grace Ernest, 3rd place



Grace Christian Academy's February Math Court winners.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Yellena Sarang Kim, 3rd place

Choral Speaking A

Azriel Fatialofa, 1st place
Kai Owens, 1st place
William Matthew Cano, 1st place
Peter John White, 1st place
Seth Balakrishna, 1st place
Ayden Sean Yumul, 3rd place
Earl Jean Pantaleon, 3rd place
Ethan John Quichocho, 3rd place
Yellena Sarang Kim, 3rd place
Janus Roman Calayo, 3rd place

3-5 DIVISION

Impromptu Speaking A

Jacob Anthony De Leon Guerrero, 2nd place
James Alexander Keaton, 3rd place
Maria Elizabeth Bonto, 4th place
Matthew Gabriel Ernest, 5th place

Impromptu Speaking B

Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga, 1st place
Na Christy Lee, 2nd place

Reader's Forum Masters B

Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga, 1st place
James Alexander Keaton, 4th place

Reader's Forum Masters C

Steven Adriatico, 1st place
Deancey Adriel Chua, 2nd place
Mikaelah Owens, 3rd place

Dramatic Interpretation A

Steven Adriatico, 3rd place

Humorous Interpretation A

Matthew Gabriel Ernest, 3rd place

Duo Interpretation A

Mikaelah Owens, 5th place
Brandie Matsumoto, 5th place

Choral Speaking A

Jaiden Kayla Sabugo, 3rd place
Miriella Dilse, 3rd place
Elliot Lee, 3rd place
Jonathan Lee, 3rd place
Justin Del Rosario, 3rd place

PGFC coordinator: Esther Manzano

K5 coach: Galilee Neal

1st Grade coach: Leah Garfil

Volunteer judges: Marsha Owens, Paulo Montecarlo, Minna Ito, Trini Aldan, Zuriel Chua

MATH COURT WINNERS (K-5TH GRADES)

Kinder 5

Nestor Ablog Jr., 1st place
William Matthew Cano, 2nd place

First Grade

Tae Hee Kim, 1st place
Julianna Rue Magtalas, 2nd place

Second Grade

Juruel Neilan Magtalas, 1st place
Ziin Noh, 3rd place

Third Grade

Matthew Gabriel Ernest, 2nd place
Ryan Daproza, 3rd place

Fourth Grade

Karissa Roselyn Quichocho, 1st place
Luis Jerome Gaspar, 2nd place

Fifth Grade

Gianpaolo Borromeo, 1st place
Heather Angel Pangilinan, 2nd place
Jaiden Kayla Sabugo, 3rd place

Math Court coordinator:

Susan Pajarillaga

FIRST YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory of

†**Patricia
Taitano
Cabrera
Reyes**

Lovingly known as "Patsy"



We, the family would like to invite all our families, relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the 1st year death anniversary of the passage of our beloved unto eternal life.

Daily Mass will be celebrated at San Vicente Church beginning on Saturday, February 15, 2014 at 6:00PM. Nightly Rosary will be said at 8:00PM at the family residence in Dandan.

On the final day, Sunday, February 23, 2014. Mass will be at 6:00PM at San Vicente Church followed by the Holy Rosary. Dinner will be served at the family residence in Dandan.

Your prayers, thoughts, and presence are sincerely appreciated.

Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase yan Oloomway

Antonio "Toi" A. Reyes, Children and Families

Life & Style

Actors forge an explosive friendship in 'Pompeii'

By **RENE RODRIGUEZ**
THE MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI—In the 3-D spectacle “Pompeii,” which opens Friday, Kit Harington and Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje play slaves forced to fight in gladiator battles in giant arenas—at least until that pesky volcano starts acting up. To reveal that the two men start out as mortal enemies and end up as friends doesn’t spoil anything: Instead, it reveals that “Pompeii” is a disaster movie with an unusual emphasis on character. Yes, the destruction is awesome, but the people who are swept up in it make you care.

Because there are so many plotlines in the film, Harington, 28, and Akinnuoye-Agbaje, 47, don’t get a lot of screen time to depict their transformation from foes to allies. But during a re-

cent stop in Miami to promote the film, the actors said developing a genuine connection was easy while prepping for the film.

“We didn’t have any choice but to spend time together,” Harington says. “We were constantly at gladiator boot camp and training in the gym together. It helped that Adewale is such a professional and lovely man. But by the time we started filming, you could see our camaraderie on the screen.”

The two actors also had certain things in common: Both were born in London and burst into stardom via HBO shows: Akinnuoye-Agbaje spent four seasons playing the memorable Adebisi on “Oz,” while Harington is in his fourth season playing Jon Snow on the hit “Game of Thrones.”

Although actors who become famous playing iconic charac-

ters on TV often have difficulty being considered for other roles, both men say the attention their HBO shows brought them has been mostly a boon.

“It is definitely—excuse the pun—a double-edged sword,” Harington says about the snowballing popularity of “Game of Thrones.” “But without ‘Thrones’ I wouldn’t have been offered a movie like this. I love working on TV because it’s liberating. You get to spend six months on the same project, you’ve got steady work each year, and then you have six months to do what you like. You don’t have to do movies for money. You get to make them for passion. But yes, there are times when a TV role keeps you from doing some things you want to do.”

“There’s a nice balance that comes from working on TV,” Akinnuoye-Agbaje says. “If

the material is good, nothing else matters. Good work begets good work. When you’re fortunate enough to work with HBO, where they make groundbreaking shows and really focus on character development, that has ramifications on your career. Everything I’ve done since, from ‘Lost’ to ‘The Bourne Identity,’ I’ve been hired based on my performance of that character on ‘Oz.’ So I could never knock it.”

With its gargantuan special effects, “Pompeii” requires a leap of faith from its actors (the cast includes Kiefer Sutherland and Carrie-Anne Moss) to hope the director will be able to bring to life what’s written on the page. But Harington and Akinnuoye-Agbaje say they didn’t hesitate to put their trust in the hands of filmmaker Paul W.S. Anderson (the “Resident Evil” movies, “Death Race”).



Adewale Akinnuoye, left, and Kit Harington star in “Pompeii.”

TRISTAR PICTURES/MCT

Florida artist smashes \$1M vase in Miami museum

By **CURT ANDERSON**
AP LEGAL AFFAIRS WRITER

MIAMI (AP)—An artist is facing a criminal charge after police say he smashed a \$1 million vase at Miami’s new art museum to protest what he called its favoritism for international rather than local art.

Maximo Caminero, 51, was charged with criminal mischief after Sunday’s incident at the Perez Art Museum Miami. According to a Miami Police Department arrest affidavit, a security guard told officers that Caminero picked up a colored vase by Chinese dissident artist Ai Weiwei. When told to put it down, the security guard said Caminero

smashed it on the floor.

A police affidavit says Caminero told officers he broke the vase to protest the museum’s lack of local artist displays and because “the museum only displayed international artists’ art.”

Caminero, a painter who lives in Miami, declined comment when reached by telephone Monday. He said he will have an afternoon news conference Tuesday.

“I’m going to answer all the questions,” he said.

The police affidavit lists the value of the vase as \$1 million, quoting the museum’s security officials. Criminal mischief can be a third-degree felony punishable by up to five years in prison when the property damaged is

worth more than \$1,000.

Caminero had a recent showing at the JF Gallery in West Palm Beach that offered patrons a chance to meet him and “view a sampling of the work from his 30-year career as an artist.”

According to PAMM’s web site, the vase is one of more than a dozen that are part of a floor installation. Each vase is partially painted in bright colors.

Behind the installation are a series of three black-and-white photos showing Ai holding a vase and then letting it drop to the ground, smashing into pieces.

The Ai Weiwei: According to What? exhibit runs through March 16 at the museum. Museum officials confirmed the in-

cident in a Monday email, and noted that an upcoming show will feature a local artist, Miami’s Edouard Duval-Carrié. The Haitian-born artist’s show, beginning March 13, is titled “Imagined Landscapes.”

A sculptor, designer and documentary-maker, Ai has irked Beijing by using his art and on-line profile to draw attention to injustices in China and the need for greater transparency and rule of law. He was detained for 81 days in 2011 during crackdown on dissent.

After his release in June 2011, Ai’s design firm was slapped with a \$2.4 million tax bill, which he fought unsuccessfully in the Chinese courts.

Top 99 most desirable women of 2014 are...



LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Emilia Clarke arrives at the 20th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles on Saturday, January 18, 2014.

By **ANN OLDENBURG**
USA TODAY

AskMen.com has just revealed the Top 99 Most Desirable Women of 2014.

And taking the No. 1 spot on the list is ...Games of Thrones star Emilia Clarke.

AskMen readers cast more than 1 million votes in the 13th annual poll and were urged to base their decisions on more than just sex appeal.

The result? A lot of TV stars made the list.

“If you have any lingering doubts as to whether TV has surpassed Hollywood in terms of visibility and popularity, the Top 99 Most Desirable Women of 2014 is proof,” says AskMen publisher James Bassil. “More than a third of the finalists are from TV series ...”

Readers voted 27 current and former TV stars to this year’s list. And it’s clear there are many Game of Thrones fans. Clarke’s co-stars Oona Chaplin (No. 43) and Rose Leslie (No. 61) also made the list.

Other TV faves include 2 Broke Girls’ Kat Dennings (No. 12), New Girl’s Zooey Deschanel (No. 17), Orange Is the New Black’s Taylor Schilling (No. 38), Modern Family’s Sofia Vergara (No. 40), as well as three leading ladies from Parks and Recreation—Amy Poehler at No. 23, Rashida Jones at No. 52 and Aubrey Plaza at No. 72.

And in the No. 99 spot? Miley Cyrus!

Celeb offspring take up a fair number of places on the list, including:

Mick Jagger’s daughter Georgia May Jagger (#42)

Charlie Chaplin’s granddaughter Oona (#43)

Dakota Johnson (#49) - daughter of Don Johnson and Melanie Griffith

Rashida Jones (#52)

Allison Williams (#54)

Paulina Gretzky (#59)

Dylan Penn—the daughter of Sean Penn and Robin Wright, is featured at #93 on this year’s list... two spaces ahead of her mom, who is #95.

Olympians are scoring on this year’s Top 99 as well:

Lolo Jones (#15)

Alex Morgan (#45)

Hope Solo (#78)

and Hannah Teter (#92) are all featured on this year’s list.

Some other fun stats from the AskMen list:

Pregnant star Kerry Washington is #7 on the list and pregnant star Olivia Wilde is #14. There are also 24 other women featured who are already moms.

Youngest women on the list: Adele Exarchopoulos (#25), Ariana Grande (#73) and Jen Selter (#82) - all 20 years old.

Oldest woman on the list? Foodie Nigella Lawson, 54, ranks at #70.

And no hot list is complete without Beyonce. The superstar has been on the list 11 times. She is currently #11, up from #39 last year.

2nd thriller due from Rowling alter ego Galbraith

LONDON (AP)—J.K. Rowling is back with a novel involving a writer whose acid-tipped pen may have led to murder.

Publisher Little, Brown said Monday that it is publishing a second book by Robert Galbraith, the “Harry Potter” author’s thriller-writing pseudonym.

“The Silkworm” sees the return of detective Cormoran Strike, the ex-soldier hero introduced in “The Cuckoo’s Calling.” In the new book, Strike investigates the disappearance of a novelist who has written a book that features scathing descriptions of real people.

“The Cuckoo’s Calling” initially attracted little notice when it was published last year, but rocketed up the charts once Rowling was exposed as its author.

A lawyer has been fined for letting slip the writer’s identity.

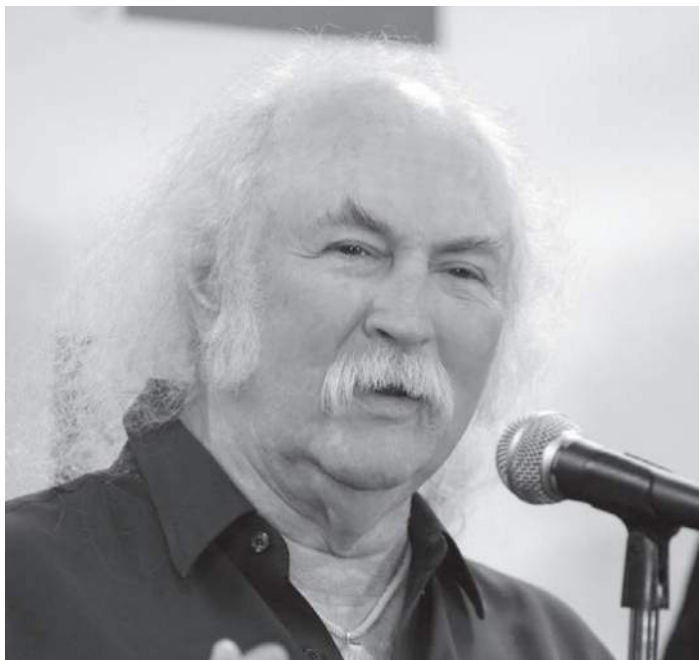
“The Silkworm” will be published June 19 in Britain and June 24 in the U.S.



In this file photo dated Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012, British author J.K. Rowling poses for photographers at the Southbank Centre in London.

AP

David Crosby postpones shows after heart surgery



This Oct. 29, 2009 file photo shows, David Crosby in the press room at the 25th Anniversary Rock & Roll Hall of Fame concert at Madison Square Garden, in New York.

AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rock performer David Crosby has undergone heart surgery and is postponing his sold-out California shows.

Publicist Michael Jensen tells City News Service that the 72-year-old had a cardiac catheterization last week to fix a blocked coronary artery.

He’s expected to make a full recovery, but concerts planned for February in San Francisco and West Hollywood will be moved to April.

Crosby says he’ll be ready to perform with the group Crosby, Stills and Nash on a tour that kicks off in Richmond, Va., on March 4.

Crosby underwent a liver transplant in 1994.

In a statement, the performer says he is “once again a very lucky man.”

First night for ‘Tonight Show’ host Jimmy Fallon

NEW YORK (AP)—Little more than a week after exiting “Late Night,” Jimmy Fallon makes his much-anticipated debut Monday as host of NBC’s “Tonight Show,” as the venerable TV institution returns to New York after four decades based on the West Coast.

Scheduled guests are U2 and Will Smith, with the show reclaiming Rockefeller Center’s Studio 6B, where “Tonight” aired during its early Johnny Carson years.

Fallon, who had hosted “Late Night” since 2009, moves up to the job Jay Leno held for much of the past 22 years until his recent departure from the “Tonight” host chair.

The 39-year-old Fallon first found stardom as a cast member and “Weekend Update” co-anchor on “Saturday Night Live.” He left “SNL” in 2004 to pursue a movie career, but he was met with less success in that arena.

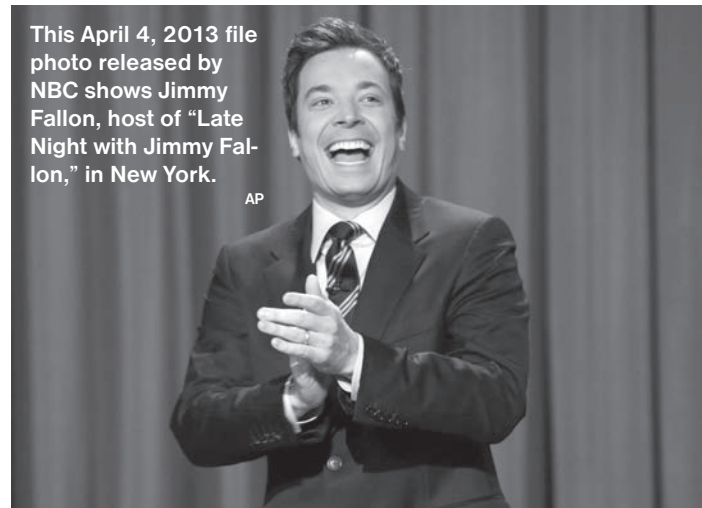
Despite the excitement sur-

rounding his new “Tonight” stint (much of it expressed by Fallon himself), he has also emphasized that “Tonight” under his regime won’t be notably different from the show his “Late Night” had evolved into.

Although airing an hour earlier than “Late Night” (but this week seen at a special time, midnight Eastern), “The Tonight

Show Starring Jimmy Fallon” will feature many of the same comic bits, the same house band, the Roots, and announcer-sidekick Steve Higgins.

Filling the vacancy left by Fallon at “Late Night” will be fellow “SNL” alum Seth Meyers, who signs on as host next Monday, with Fred Armisen, yet another former “SNL”-er, as band leader.



This April 4, 2013 file photo released by NBC shows Jimmy Fallon, host of “Late Night with Jimmy Fallon,” in New York.

AP

German art hoarder in talks with 6 claimants

BERLIN (AP)—A lawyer for the elderly art collector whose works were seized by German police two years ago said Monday that he is in negotiations with six claimants who are seeking items stolen from them or their families by the Nazis.

Hannes Hartung, who represents Cornelius Gurlitt, said the claims cover 3 percent of the more than 1,400 works authorities confiscated from the collector’s Munich apartment in 2012—or about 40 pieces.

Gurlitt’s representatives encouraged further potential claimants to submit their claims through a newly created website. His spokesman, Stephan Holzinger, said the site was meant to “make clear anew our readiness for dialogue—toward the public and toward possible claimants.”

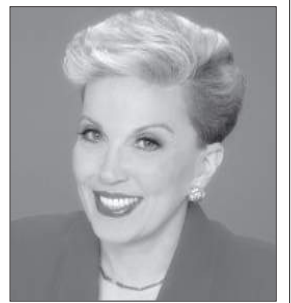
Hartung said in a statement that Gurlitt’s case was being treated more harshly than those of other public and private collections in Germany, which may also be in possession of stolen art.

The new website also features a personal statement from Gurlitt, in which he said: “I only wanted to live with my pictures, in peace and calm.” He complained that some of what has been written about him and the collection is untrue or not entirely true.

The works in Munich were seized by authorities investigating a tax case in 2012. Officials kept the find secret until it was publicized by a German magazine in early November. They are checking whether 458 of the pieces were seized by the Nazis, but plan to return works belonging indisputably to Gurlitt.

Couple new to Florida aren’t happy with gay neighbors

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I relocated to Florida a little over a year ago and were quickly welcomed into our new neighbors’ social whirl. Two couples in the neighborhood are gay—one male, one female. While they are nice enough, my husband and I did not include them when it was our turn to host because we do not approve of their lifestyle choices. Since then, we have been excluded from neighborhood gatherings, and someone even suggested that we are bigots!

Abby, we moved here from a conservative community where people were pretty much the same. If people were “different,” they apparently kept it to themselves. While I understand the phrase “when in Rome,” I don’t feel we should have to compromise our values just to win the approval of our neighbors. But really, who is the true bigot here? Would you like to weigh in?

UNHAPPY IN TAMPA

DEAR UNHAPPY: I sure would. The first thing I’d like to say is that regardless of what you were told in your previous community, a person’s sexual orientation isn’t a “lifestyle choice.” Gay people don’t choose to be gay; they are born that way. They can’t change being gay any more than you can change being heterosexual.

I find it interesting that you are unwilling to reciprocate the hospitality of people who welcomed you and opened their homes to you, and yet you complain because you are receiving similar treatment.

From where I sit, you may have chosen the wrong place to live because it appears you would be happier in a less integrated neighborhood surrounded by people who think the way you do. But if you interact only with people like yourselves, you will have missed a chance for growth, which is what you have been offered here. Please don’t blow it.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I’m 14 and in high school. My father died in a car accident when I was 8. A man who attends my church took me under his wing and has been like a father to me ever since. He is very supportive most of the time. However, he spans me with a belt when he feels I misbehave.

My mom doesn’t know about it because she works long hours to support the family. I like the nurturing and encouragement this man gives me, but I can’t take another beating. What should I do?

BLUE IN THE SOUTHWEST

DEAR BLUE: What you are describing is a form of child abuse. This “nurturing” man has no right to hit you. You shouldn’t have to tolerate being beaten in order to feel supported.

Tell your mother what has been going on, or a teacher or a counselor at your school. You appear to be an intelligent young man. Your silence is what enables those beatings to continue, so please do not remain silent about this any longer.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: If you are divorced from your wife, do her parents remain your in-laws? This is to settle a disagreement.

SHARON IN TEXAS

DEAR SHARON: Legally, no. But relationships are not always based on legality. Sometimes divorced couples remain extended family members, particularly if there are children involved.

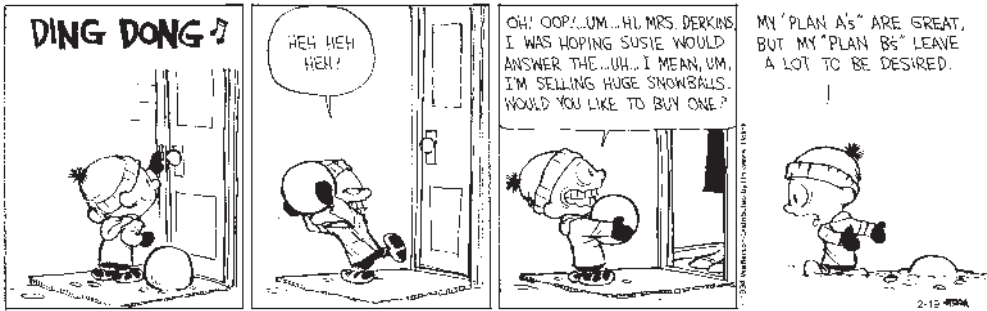
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in “What Every Teen Should Know.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

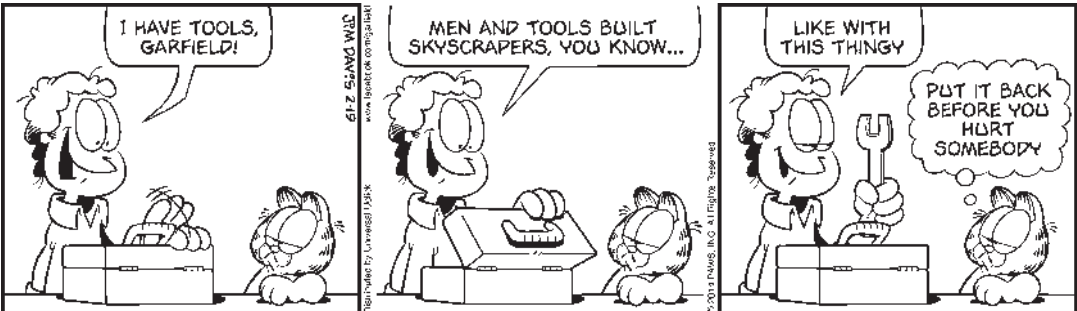
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



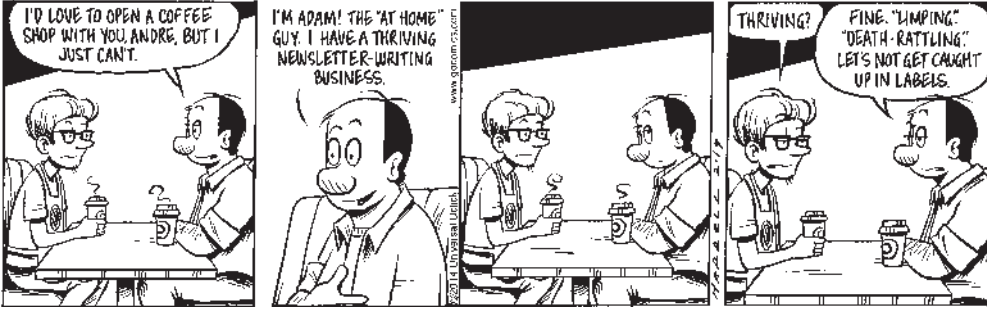
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



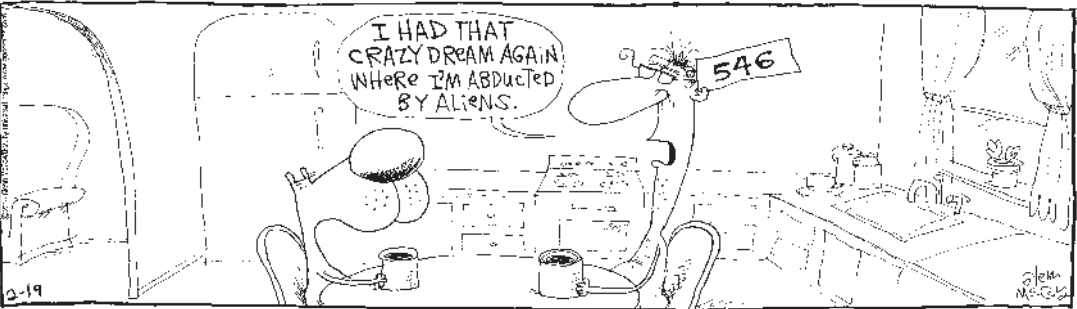
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



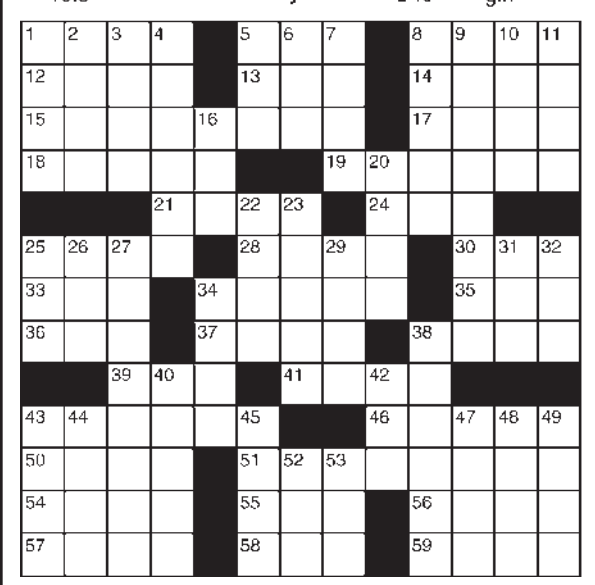
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 007
 - 5 House-
 - hold
 - critter
 - 8 Largest of
 - the seven
 - 12 Follow
 - orders
 - 13 Indivisible
 - 14 Tie
 - 15 Negative
 - aspect
 - 17 Icelandic
 - saga
 - 18 Bristles
 - 19 Shower
 - partici-
 - pant?
 - 21 Collec-
 - tions
 - 24 Fool
 - 25 Equitable
 - 28 Robert of
 - "Airplane!"
 - 30 Not
 - square
 - 33 Fire
 - residue
 - 34 Turning
 - point
 - 35 Raw rock
 - 36 Keanu's
 - "Matrix"
 - role
- DOWN**
- 20 Right on
 - the map?
 - 1 Physiques
 - 2 Reed
 - 39 Triumphed
 - 41 Bygone
 - 43 Obscure
 - stuff
 - 46 Extreme
 - 50 Squeez-
 - ing
 - 51 Docket
 - 54 Being, to
 - Brutus
 - 55 Speedom-
 - eter stat
 - 56 Advan-
 - tage
 - 57 Dregs
 - 58 Before
 - 59 Reddish
 - horse
 - 16 Witness
 - 22 Reedy
 - 23 Practical
 - know-how
 - 25 Tenor
 - Peerce
 - 26 Work with
 - 27 "The
 - Price Is
 - Right"
 - 29 String toy
 - 31 Lyricist
 - Gershwin
 - 32 Energy
 - 34 Teller's
 - partner
 - 38 Merchant
 - 40 Refuges
 - 42 Regret
 - 43 First
 - victim
 - 44 Got up
 - 45 Pinnacle
 - 47 — list
 - (agenda)
 - 48 Sitarist's
 - rendition
 - 49 Mideast
 - gulf
 - 52 Spring
 - mo.
 - 53 That
 - girl

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 2-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Benicio Del Toro, 47; Seal, 51; Jeff Daniels, 59; Smokey Robinson, 74.

Happy Birthday: You'll make headway with matters that concern personal finance, investments, contracts, agreements and medical issues. Don't sit back waiting for things to come to you. So much can be accomplished if you take control. Your actions will help make a difference for those unable to do so. Strive to improve your life and secure your future. Your numbers are 4, 11, 21, 29, 35, 44, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take care of business. Don't get dragged down or into a situation that has the potential to make you look bad. Keep things moving along without complication and you will show your strength and ability to get things done. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Stay focused on what you need to accomplish. Don't get involved in rumors or office politics. Put greater emphasis on what you have to offer and the ways you can diversify in order to make the most professionally and financially. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Follow your heart and go in the direction that suits you best. Refuse to let anyone railroad you into something you know little about. Express your thoughts and push for what you want to see unfold. Taking the initiative will be your best course of action. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Get involved in your community or in an activity that will add to your knowledge

regarding a skill you have. Finding ways to improve will take you in a new direction that may be questioned by friends or relatives. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A short trip or conversation with an expert will help you make a decision that will alter your course and help you find the satisfaction and happiness you desire. Don't look back when forward motion has so much to offer. Follow your heart. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take it easy, relax and enjoy your friends. Go shopping for something that will help update your appearance. Spend some time socializing with someone you love to be with. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Tie up loose ends before someone brings them to your attention. Complaints will end in hard feelings and a change in an important relationship. Now is not the time to overreact. Just get things done and live up to any promises you made. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Have some fun, learn something new and venture into unfamiliar territory. It's time to expand your mind, your friendships and your interests. Romance will improve your life and lead to a personal change that will make you happy. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It's important to have a clear picture of your situation, surroundings and what other think or want to do in order to make a judgment call that can determine your future. Have a heart-to-heart talk before making a personal or professional decision. ****

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't tamper with something that is working. Step back and watch things unfold. The less you do or say, the better. You will be blamed for whatever goes wrong if you decide to interfere. Don't try to change others. **

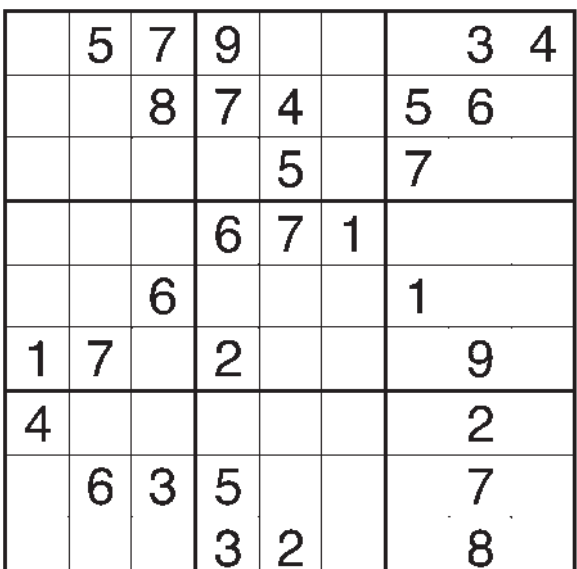
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Strategize and push to activate your plans. Don't be shy; express your thoughts and use your skills openly to reach your goals. Rewards will come your way along with recognition and praise. Stand tall and be proud of your accomplishments. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Ease your stress by making the changes that will help you achieve stability in your life personally, financially and physically. A chance to help someone you have worked with in the past will lead to a new and prosperous opportunity. ***
Birthday Baby: You are smart, articulate and progressive. You are imaginative and driven.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](https://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](https://facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](https://linkedin.com/company/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

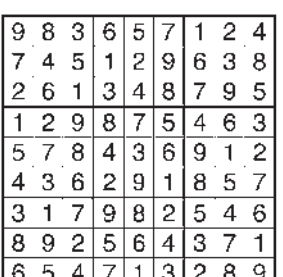
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ** 2/19

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FAMOUS CATHEDRALS Solution: 9 letters



© 2014 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 2/19
Aird, Anderson, Aragon, Barnett, Barroll, Bell, Blisson, Blanchett, Bosworth, Bowen, Bybee, Cate, Coleman, Coulson, Crier, Curtin, Dent, Doucet, Dyer, Fulop, Gibson, Gonzaga, Hall, Hawn, Hicks, Holman, James, Mack, McNeil, Medici, Middleton, Neilson, O'Hara, Parr, Rusoff, Sadler, Stewart, Sutherland, Tate, Thomas, Tyldesley, Wagner, Warren, Webb
Yesterday's Answer: Almost Famous
Treasury 12, 13, 14 or 15 can be purchased online at wonderword.universalluclick.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

1 Administrative/Accounting Clerk. Holder of a Bachelor's Degree. Must have at least two (2) years work experience in public accounting office. Must have at least five (5) years work experience in administrative position and extensive exposure working with company executives. Must have more than five (5) years experience in accounting work. Must be knowledgeable in income tax return preparation and compilation of financial statements. Must be knowledgeable in various accounting software such as Quickbooks, Peachtree, FAS & tax software. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience, beginning at \$5.55/hour. Please mail your resume at P.O. Box 503198 Saipan, MP 96950 (Ernst & Young (CNMI) Inc.)

Commercial Cleaners (3) Email resume and references to beej_johnson@yahoo.com or call 287-2757.

(10) Mason, (5) Carpenter, (1) Plumber, 5 years experience. Email resume to landmark@pticom.com.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

- **DISC JOCKEY / MC**
- **WAITRESS**
- **DANCERS**

Applications may be submitted to Joon Corp. dba King's Club at Garapan or Dionysos Bar & Grill or email: cross_road_44@hotmail.com. Tel. No. 233-0352 or 483-5382. No Experience needed. Will train. Bring Resume. Must be over 21 of age.

Job Vacancy Announcement
Closing Date: February 24, 2014

- **(1) Business Operations Manager**
- **(1) Sales/Accounting Clerk**
- **(1) Air-con Technician**

Please send resume to **MANTRADE COMPANY INC.**
P.O. Box 506118, Saipan, MP 96950

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REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #2 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
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Interested applicants may send resume to
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Please send your resume no later than February 28, 2014.

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2-BR, 1-BTH. **\$350-\$550/month.** Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

Ocean View Terraces
(Navy Hill)
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\$600/month

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Davis, White of US win Olympic ice dance gold



SOCHI, Russia (AP)—Through 17 years of grueling practices, of defeats and victories, Meryl Davis and Charlie White insist they've never considered parting ways.

A perfect pairing, they were nearly flawless at the Sochi Olympics, and on Monday they became the first Americans to win an ice dance gold medal.

"The closest we came to breaking up, I can't pinpoint one because there hasn't been one," Davis, 27, said. "Certainly there have been struggles. It hasn't been easy to get where we are. ... It's a partnership which I couldn't have asked for more."

"Charlie and I are very different. We used those difference to balance it out. There has never been a moment of doubt."

Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir of Canada, the 2010 champions, took silver, while bronze went to Russia's Elena Ilinykh and Nikita Katsalapov.

Davis and White won silver in Vancouver, but in the four years since they have overtaken the Canadians, their training partners in Detroit under Russian coach Marina Zoueva.

The reigning world champs scored 116.63 points in the free dance to finish with 195.52, 4.53 ahead of Virtue and Moir.

"No athletes like it to sit in this position," Moir said. "We came here to win the competition. But it's easier when we see them and know how hard these guys work."

When their program to "Sheherazade" ended with White on a knee, Davis rested her head on his back in exhausted elation. The two started skating together in 1997 in Michigan, and on the biggest day of their career, they performed just as they had visualized it.

"That in itself justified 17 years of hard work," White, 26, said.

The music swelling over the final minute of the program, their feet were in nonstop motion, yet every step was intricately choreographed. Their lifts were a blur as White spun across the ice with Davis held aloft, their movements and expressions still fierce despite the draining demands of the performance.

As they told the story of the Persian king and the woman who enchants him, White was regal in purple velvet, Davis beguiling in a lavender dress with jewels shimmering on



Meryl Davis and Charlie White of the United States celebrate after placing first in the ice dance free dance figure skating finals at the Iceberg Skating Palace during the 2014 Winter Olympics, Monday, Feb. 17, 2014, in Sochi, Russia.

her midriff.

They now have one medal of each color after winning bronze in the new team event in Sochi, the first American figure skaters to own three.

Virtue and Moir had become the first North American ice dance gold medalists at their home Olympics in Vancouver. Their free dance to Russian classical music told the story of their own partnership, which also stretches back to 1997.

In a performance at times tender and at others triumphant, Moir kissed her hand at the start and again throughout the program.

"I think there is relief," Moir said. "It has been a journey to get here since 2010, a lot of sleepless nights to get to the Olympic Games. If I could only have been that 22-year-old at Vancouver."

"The reason we stayed in is we wanted a different journey. Now, the pressures of this game are just melting away."

Ilinykh and Katsalapov were just ninth at last year's world championships but are now the latest Olympic ice dance medalists from Russia, finishing 7.51 points behind the Canadians. She's only 19; he's 22. The home fans started

cheering when the first few notes of "Swan Lake" played for their free dance, and they were roaring when it ended with Katsalapov collapsed on his knees and Ilinykh weeping.

"The program builds and builds and builds," Katsalapov said through a translator, "and the audience gave us energy to keep building it more and more."

France's Nathalie Pechalat and Fabian Bourzat were fourth, 6.26 points out of bronze. The other U.S. teams, Madison Chock and Evan Bates and siblings Maia and Alex Shibutani, finished eighth and ninth.

Russia has won 18 of 33 medals in ice dance's Olympic history, but now North Americans own two straight golds. Virtue and Moir have said they'll likely retire. For Davis and White, talk of the future can wait until this historic victory starts feeling real.

"We wanted to fight for the best performance we could give and we did that. You dream of this for so long, work so hard, and they worked hard, too," White said, referring to Virtue and Moir. "They always have been with us, pushing us, and we couldn't have done it without them."

As NBA resumes, next James-Durant matchup nears



NEW ORLEANS (AP)—LeBron James won't assume the eventual date with Indiana that so many others expect.

He definitely has another one with Kevin Durant—in just a few days.

The NBA's two best players went their separate ways after the East's 163-155 victory over the West in Sunday's NBA All-Star game, but only temporarily. They will be back on the same floor Thursday in Oklahoma City, perhaps even joined by Russell Westbrook.

Less than two months will remain in the regular season when play resumes Tuesday, with so much still to sort out in the loaded Western Conference.

Things seem so much simpler in the East, where a Miami-Indiana matchup in the Eastern Conference finals has seemed a certainty since the opening weeks of the season—except to James.

"This is more than a two-team race. There's a lot of good teams in the Eastern Conference," he said. "It's been a slow start for us as a whole, but there's so many good teams, you can't just count on us and one other team. I respect every team we go against."

Miami went into the break 2 1/2 games behind Indiana, with third-place Toronto having 10 more losses than the

Heat. The Pacers lost Game 7 of the East finals in Miami last June, and they want home-court advantage if—when?—the teams meet again this spring.

The Heat are interested in it too, though only to a point.

"What matters more is that we're healthy. We're going to compete for first place of course, but we're not going to make it this huge thing," Chris Bosh said.

"We're within striking distance, 2 1/2 back. We like our chances."

The Thunder finally opened a little cushion atop the West with their strong finish to the first half, winning their final three games to take a four-game lead over injury-plagued San Antonio, the defending conference champion. Houston, the Los Angeles Clippers and Portland are all six games behind.

Durant is the NBA's leading scorer and has a good chance to end James' reign as the league's MVP. The Thunder could get even stronger when Westbrook returns from knee surgery, perhaps even Thursday in their first game after the break.

Durant scored 38 points in the All-Star game and has been unstoppable even in games where there is defense, averaging 31.5 points. He had 33 in the Thunder's 112-95 victory in Miami last month,

but scoring is only part of what he's done to help Oklahoma City to a league-best 43-12 record even with only 25 games from Westbrook.

"KD is a great player. He's a great teammate. He does all the things that we have asked," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said.

"He doesn't want to be just a scorer. He wants to be a playmaker, a defender and that's what he's done all season for us."

The trade deadline also is Thursday. The Heat and Pacers have perhaps already made their moves with the signings of centers Greg Oden and Andrew Bynum, but other contenders may seek the opportunity to make a deal they feel could position themselves to end the Heat's quest for a third straight championship.

The Pacers believe they can do it. Paul George isn't far from the James-Durant level, and a title would help him

inch even closer.

"I want to be one of the best players to ever play in this league and be the best player in this league," George said, "so it's just taking every day to get better, every year to get better, and you know, I'm going to be at the top at some point."

So many others have a chance heading into the stretch run. The Clippers (Chris Paul and Blake Griffin), Rockets (Dwight Howard and James Harden) and

Trail Blazers (LaMarcus Aldridge and Damian Lillard) all have All-Star duos, and don't forget the Spurs, who were less than a half-minute from finishing off the Heat last June.

"We definitely have the tools, we definitely have the team," Tony Parker said of his team, which has been playing without Manu Ginobili and Kawhi Leonard. "We'll be in the mix as long as we stay healthy."

LeBron: 'At this point, I can't' see leaving Miami

MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James cannot currently envision a scenario where he leaves the Miami Heat this summer, though he still plans to assess his needs and his future at the end of the season.

James made the comments in a wide-ranging interview with NBA TV. The Heat star can choose to become a free agent after this season by exercising an option in the contract he signed when he arrived in Miami during the summer of 2010.

Asked by interviewer Steve Smith if he can picture himself being anywhere else, James did not seem to hesitate before answering.

"At this point, I can't," James said. "At this point, I can't. We don't know what

can happen from now to July, so what I've been able to do this whole season to this point is just worry about what's at hand and that's winning another championship. And hopefully at the end of this year I can put myself in a position where I can hold that Larry O'Brien Trophy up once again and then I will assess what I have to do with my future after that."

James discussed several topics in the interview, including what his current sources of motivation are, ways he thinks his game can still improve, how he handles expectations, the struggles of his first season in Miami and his background growing up in Akron, Ohio.

Some of his most telling

comments revolved around the fallout that came after the Heat lost to Dallas in the 2011 NBA Finals. James has often told the story about how he spent the next two weeks in near isolation, completely overcome by the disappointment of losing the title series.

In the interview, James also revealed how he started to get past that loss, saying that Heat guard Dwyane Wade—with whom he clashed at times over roles on the team in that first season—urged him to join him in the Bahamas for a getaway.

"We had some great conversations there," James said. "D-Wade was like, 'Man, in order for us to be great you have to be the guy.'"

James said he was slightly taken aback by that.

"We're talking about Wade County here," James said, referring to what Miami-Dade County starting calling itself in Wade's honor. "We're talking about the man who won a championship here, who's been a six-time All-Star, you want me to take the keys? And he said, 'Absolutely.'"

With that, James said he left the villain role he played with that season in the Bahamas, came home and went into the gym to get started on the next season. The Heat have won two NBA titles since.

"I don't play for what people expect for me to do anymore," James said. "I want to be the greatest of all time and that's just my mindset."

Inquiry says Incognito, 2 others harassed Martin



By **STEVE REED**
AP SPORTS WRITER

An investigation into the racially charged Miami Dolphins bullying scandal detailed widespread harassment in the team's locker room that extended beyond the two players at the center of the probe.

The NFL-ordered report stated there was a "pattern of harassment" committed by at least three players and extended to two linemen and an assistant trainer, all targets of vicious taunts and racist insults.

Lawyer Ted Wells released the report Friday, saying guard John Jerry and center Mike Pouncey followed Richie Incognito's lead in harassing Jonathan Martin, who left the team in October. They threatened to rape his sister, called him a long list of slurs and bullied him for not being "black enough."

In a statement emailed by a league spokesman, the NFL did not make any mention of possible punishment stemming from the case. The league only confirmed it had received the report and said it appreciated the Dolphins' cooperation with the investigation. Wells said he does not intend to comment further.

Martin is biracial, Incognito is white, and Jerry and Pouncey are black.

Martin's agent Kenneth Zuckerman said his client feels "vindicated" by the report.

"He feels a great sense of relief," Zuckerman told The Associated Press. "Jonathan Martin is a great man and he's only shown me that he is very honest since the day I met him. He loves football and is

eager to get back on the field, regardless of what team he plays for."

Incognito's attorney, Mark Schamel, released a statement calling Wells' report "replete with errors" and said that Martin "was never bullied by Richie Incognito or any member of the Dolphins' offensive line."

Incognito sent a tweet Friday night, saying: "You could not define me in 144 years let alone 144 pages Mr Wells. Thank you for your hard work and dedication."

Martin, who has two years left on his contract with the Dolphins, declined interview requests.

Incognito was suspended in November, but Pouncey and Jerry remained starters throughout the season.

The report mentioned another offensive lineman and an assistant trainer who also routinely came under attack from the trio. Neither was identified in the report.

The report chronicled Martin's struggle to deal with a "pattern of harassment," including emotional text exchanges with his parents and a description of him crying in the bathroom after one particularly painful attack.

Martin also told investigators that he "believed that trying to engage in a physical confrontation with these three—whom he viewed as a united group—would only make matters worse."

The inquiry said Martin was taunted and ridiculed almost daily. After Martin left the team, Incognito boasted about "breaking Jmart" in a notebook the linemen used to tally fines and bonuses among themselves. When the investigation began, In-



In this Aug. 24, 2013, file photo, Miami Dolphins guard Richie Incognito (68) and tackle Jonathan Martin (71) look over plays during an NFL preseason football game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in Miami Gardens, Fla. M

cognito asked another player to destroy the book, saying "They're going to suspend me."

The other harassed player was "subjected to homophobic name-calling and improper physical touching," while the assistant trainer, who was born in Japan, was subjected to racial slurs.

"It was not difficult to conclude that the Assistant Trainer and Player A were harassed, but the questions raised in Martin's case were more complex, nuanced and difficult," the report says.

Although Wells concluded that Martin was abused by three teammates, the report said "they did not intend to drive Martin from the team or cause him lasting emo-

tional injury."

Evaluating Martin's claims was difficult, "given his mental health issues, his possible heightened sensitivity to insults and his unusual, 'bipolar' friendship with Incognito," the report said.

"Nonetheless, we ultimately concluded that Martin was indeed harassed by Incognito, who can fairly be described as the main instigator."

The report comes about three months after the league hired Wells to investigate the case, which prompted a national debate about hazing and workplace bullying.

"To a great extent, Incognito dictated the culture," the report said. "We doubt that matters would have gotten so out of hand had Incognito not

set a tone on the offensive line that made extremely vulgar taunting a typical form of communication."

Dolphins offensive line coach Jim Turner didn't attempt to stop the behavior and even took part in some of the taunting of "Player A," the report said. Several people interviewed told investigators that Turner gave Player A, a male sex doll as a gag gift around Christmas 2012. Turner told investigators he did not remember the incident, but investigators said they did not believe him.

However, the report found no evidence that the Dolphins front office or head coach Joe Philbin was aware of the conduct Martin found abusive.

The 6-foot-5, 312-pound Martin abruptly left the team Oct. 28. He was briefly hospitalized and then joined his family in California and underwent counseling for emotional issues. Incognito was barred from the season's last eight games.

Incognito expressed regrets about the racist and profane language he used with Martin, but said it stemmed from a culture of locker-room "brotherhood," not bullying.

Martin has said he tried to be friends with Incognito. The two players traded more than a thousand text messages in a year's span, and the teasing and vulgar banter went both ways. Martin also participated in the teasing of Player A, although investigators say he was simply trying to fit in with the other linemen.

The report also mentioned Martin having suicidal thoughts.

"Whether or not Incognito, Jerry and Pouncey fully appreciated the effect of their actions on Martin, there is no doubt that, from Martin's perspective, their actions were abusive and hurtful," the report said. "We are not, however, in a position to evaluate Martin's assertion that the abusive conduct of his teammates was, in fact, the exclusive triggering cause of his depression and contemplation of suicide."

The NFL Players Association said it will review the findings closely, confer with players and all relevant parties involved.

Dolphins owner Stephen Ross said in a statement: "As an organization, we are committed to a culture of team-first accountability and respect for one another."

Morrow, Blue Jays aiming for a bounce-back season



D U N E -
DIN, Fla.
(AP)—As the Toronto

Blue Jays got busy in 2014, pitcher Brandon Morrow offered a blunt assessment of what went wrong in a most disappointing 2013.

He began with the rotation. "We pitched like garbage," Morrow said Monday at Toronto's first spring training workout.

"Starting pitchers were awful the first month, myself included. I mean, none of us were pitching like we wanted to, whether it was just bad luck that all five of us were going through that same time, or just putting pressure on ourselves," he said.

Morrow's season ended in May because of a forearm injury. The right-hander finished 2-3 with a 5.63 ERA.

R.A. Dickey and Mark

Buehrle, both expected to be aces, barely wound up over .500. Josh Johnson went 2-8, got injured and now plays for San Diego.

"Guys started getting hurt and knowing other guys were already barking and hurt, and trying to keep it up and stay on the field. I think that was a big part of it. Just the slow start and our pitching just didn't give us a chance in those first couple months."

Boosted by a winter makeover, the Blue Jays were picked by many last year to be a World Series contender. But even with the addition of Jose Reyes, Melky Cabrera, Dickey, Buehrle and more, Toronto stumbled to a 74-88 record and finished last in the AL East for the first time since 2004.

Manager John Gibbons said the club's issues started from the beginning.

Reyes broke his ankle in April on an awkward slide, and the star shortstop missed nearly three months. The Blue Jays dropped 10 games below .500 by early May and were doomed for the rest of the season.

"Last year, we didn't play well in really any phase of the game early on," Gibbons said. "We didn't play very good defense, hitting was sporadic and we struggled in the rota-

tion. That leads to how we started the season."

But Gibbons said there is reason to be optimistic this season.

Gibbons expects former All-Star outfielders Jose Bautista and Cabrera and third baseman Brett Lawrie to bounce back after missing significant time with injuries.

Gibbons said he also has full confidence that the team's rotation will drasti-

cally improve its 4.81 ERA that ranked second-worst in the majors. He has yet to say who will be the Blue Jays' fifth starter.

If everything falls into place, Gibbons said he believes Toronto can end its 21-year postseason drought, which ranks second longest in the majors behind only the Royals (28).

"We said all last year that we like this ballclub and we still do," he said.

"It was put together for a reason: to win. Last year didn't end the way we want to. Not even close. But we still like it as a group. You go around with Lawrie, Reyes, Eddie (Encarnacion), Bautista, hopefully Cabrera bounces back and hopefully Colby (Rasmus) has another good year. There's some pretty good players out there and we like them."

Source: Jimenez and Orioles agree to deal

BALTIMORE (AP)—A person familiar with the situation says free-agent pitcher Ubaldo Jimenez and the Baltimore Orioles have agreed to a contract, pending a physical.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Monday night because the deal had not been completed and

the club had not made an announcement.

Several media outlets reported earlier that the sides had reached an agreement, which is reportedly for about \$50 million over four years.

Jimenez went 13-9 with a 3.30 ERA in 32 starts for Cleveland last season. He

turned down a \$14.1 million qualifying offer from the Indians, so Baltimore would have to forfeit its first-round draft pick (17th overall) to sign him.

Orioles executive vice president Dan Duquette has been searching for a veteran starter for much of the offsea-

son to help anchor the rotation. Jimenez is 82-75 with a 3.92 ERA over eight major league seasons.

The 30-year-old right-hander broke into the majors with Colorado in 2006. His best season was 2010, when he went 19-8 with a 2.88 ERA in 33 starts for the Rockies.

Pelicans barge into win column in MDX caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Pelicans showed poise this time to thwart IT&E, 71-66, in the second game in the 2014 MDX Amateur Radio Club Basketball League last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The Pelicans, who bungled a 14-point halftime lead against TBK Mechanics last week to drop their opener, withstood IT&E's fourth-quarter rally to enter the win column in the 10-team field.

Free throws saved the day for the Pelicans, as they drilled their last 8 points from the 15-foot line to foil IT&E's repeated comeback bids. Luiz Reyes made four charities, Don Brennan added two, while Galarse and Ogumoro had one apiece. All four finished in twin digits with Brennan tallying 19, Ogumoro chipping in 16, and Galarse and Reyes contributing 15 and 12, respectively.

Ogumoro and Galarse started the Pelicans offense, but IT&E remained afloat at the end of the third after hitting three triples. The Pelicans led by only a deuce at the conclusion of the opening canto, 15-13, but padded the advantage to double digits at the



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Pelicans' Edwin Camacho goes for a fastbreak layup against IT&E's J.R. Barrios during the first quarter of their game in the MDX caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

break, 35-23, after drawing 10 points from Brennan.

Brennan added 6 more in the third period and got help from the rest of the crew, as the Pelicans had another 20-point production to keep the twin digit lead, 55-41. However, IT&E slowly trimmed the lead in the fourth period with Errol Peredo and Marlon De Dios alternately

hitting baskets.

The Pelicans countered with only four field goals in the pay-off canto, but still save the win, as IT&E was forced to give up fouls in the closing minutes and the former capitalized on the free shots.

De Dios led IT&E (1-1) with his 26 points, while Peredo was the only other player on the

squad to hit double figures with his 18 markers.

Pelicans 71 — Brennan 19, Ogumoro 16, Galarse 15, Reyes 12, Bahillo 5, Camacho 2.

IT&E 66 — De Dios 26, Peredo 18, Barrios 8, Gamboa 6, Cayan 2, Dayrit 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-13, 35-23, 55-41, 71-66.

Manny Pacquiao starts gym training

By ROY LUARCA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Fighter of the Decade Manny Pacquiao returned to the gym Monday and did light workouts with Filipino trainer Buboy Fernandez.

Trusted assistant Roger Fernandez told the Inquirer that Pacquiao and Buboy did five rounds with the mitts and then two rounds each with the speed ball, double end ball and the heavy bags plus two rounds of skipping rope at Pacman Wild Card Gym in Gen. Santos City.

Pacquiao will try to regain his World Boxing Organization welterweight crown from Timothy Bradley on April 12 in Las Vegas.



WWW.INQUIRER.NET
Fighter of the Decade Manny Pacquiao trains with Filipino trainer Buboy Fernandez.

LOPEZ

From Page 28

after beating Ishikawa, 8-2.

In other title game results, second-ranked Tania Tan pulled off an upset over the top-seeded Julia Ishikawa, 8-6. Tan made it to the pro-set finals after outclassing Ma-

lika Miyawaki in the semifinals, 8-2, while Ishikawa also cruised past Ami Tsukagoshi in the other Final Four pairing, 8-1. Tsukagoshi joined Tan and Ishikawa in the Top 3 after defeating Miyawaki in the consolation game, 8-2.

In the girls U10 singles finale, Erika Tuttle also

stunned her seeded opponent, the second-ranked Maria Grecoire, 6-3.

Earlier in the semifinals, Tuttle eliminated top-ranked Hana Ojima in a back-and-forth game, 7-6 (5) to barge into the title game. The eventual champion marched into the semifinals after ousting

Tiara Imai in the upper bracket quarterfinals, 6-2, while Ojima outclassed Hye Jin Elliott, 6-1.

In the lower bracket, Grecoire lived up to expectations when she topped Marielle Lopez, 6-2, and Maaya Sato, 6-1, to move one step closer from clinching the championship.

In the girls U10 singles, Co-

natsu won her sibling rivalry with younger sister Coume. Conatsu was unbeaten in four games in the round-robin tournament, securing the championship over the weekend after winning over Coume, 8-3, and Jireh Warren, 8-5.

Coume settled for the run-

ner-up honors with her 3-1 record, while Warren rounded out the Top 3 after finishing the event with a 2-2 slate. Riko Ojima and Susan Sablan completed the field.

Meanwhile, results in the mixed-up doubles will be reported in *Saipan Tribune's* Thursday edition.

ENFORCERS

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home in the last inning.

The Enforcers, who made three runs in the first inning, but went cold in the next two finished strong on offense, scoring in the last three innings. The Fielders (1-4), on the other hand, struggled all day, drilling only one run in the second inning with Kimo Angailen reaching home off an error from Rangamar.

Falcons 14, Jets 12

In the first game last Sunday, the Falcons slipped past the Jets (2-3).

The Falcons (3-2) won the closely fought game after getting insurance runs in the sixth inning and holding strong on defense in the last.

Hanging on to a 9-8 lead after five complete innings, the Falcons collected five runs at the top of the sixth to gain more distance. Catcher Don Fejeran hit a two-run triple

and also made it home off Oscar Lizama's single. Lizama went on to give the Falcons their fourth run in that inning after stealing home, while Ace Evangelista scored the fifth run, courtesy of Kekuni Kainoa's single.

The Jets answered with three runs off a passed ball, stolen base, and Jerome Reyes' RBI single to remain in contention. Down by only three, 11-14, the Jets threatened the Falcons anew, as the former shut out

the latter at the top of the seventh and leadoff batter Brandon Pua tripled and stole home at the bottom of the inning. However, the Falcons tightened up their defense in the ensuing plays for the three quick outs and the win. Second baseman Jay Kalen threw to Evangelista, who tagged Nathaniel Torres out and the former got the second out after catching a fly ball from Noel Cabrera, while closer Benen Iguel struck out Austin Benavente.

Comets 8, Red Sox 1

The Comets (3-2) joined the Falcons in second place in the team standings after downing the struggling Red Sox (1-4).

The Comets managed to cruise to victory despite a slow start. They led by only one after three innings and were even in a deadlock at the top of the fourth, 1-1, as the Red Sox got into the board off an error from the Comets catcher.

Centerfielder Jimmy Demapan then broke the deadlock at

the bottom of the fourth with his two-run double and he also scored off a sacrifice fly from Elijah Villar to give the Comets a 4-1 cushion. Four more runs off three boobos from Red Sox shortstop Delin Resaura and Matthew Higgers widened the gap.

Winning pitcher Austin Indalecio gave up only three hits and no earned run to help the Comets avenge their 8-10 loss to the defending champions in the first round.

LITTLE

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son Lisua contributed three of those six runs, as he hit a two-run double in the fifth inning and an RBI single in the first. Catcher Gloyd Martin also had an RBI single at the bottom of the first, while starting pitcher Pedro Maratita posted a two-run double in the second inning, giving the Little Legals a promising 7-0 lead.

McDonald's was shutout in the first two innings, as Maratita struck out six batters and stranded three runners.

McDonald's then managed to break the spell in the third inning, scoring off an error at third base and a stolen base added four more runs in the fourth, three were unearned.

However, these runs were not enough to bring McDonald's back in the game, as the Little Legals answered with three runs and went for the jugular in the fifth, grabbing five more runs, three of them were off its foe's fielding and pitching mistakes. The Little Legals then closed the match in style at the top of the sixth, as after giving up one run with

one out, the team got a double play. Maratita caught a fly ball and then threw to third base where June Sablan was waiting to tag out Tommy Santos.

Laolao Bay 18, Twins 9

In the first game last Sunday, Laolao Bay (2-2) doubled up the GSM Twins (0-4).

Down at 7-8 after two complete innings, Laolao Bay grabbed the lead and momentum of the match in the next two innings, as it notched 10 runs against none from the Twins.

Catcher Tommy Agulto

started Laolao's breakaway with his two-run inside-the-park homer in the third inning. Laolao gained four more runs off the Twins' fielding errors and wild pitches at the bottom of the third. Agulto added another RBI in the fourth inning with his single, while third baseman Franco Namauleg hit a two-RBI single. The fourth run in the fourth inning was scored off a Twins error at third before relief pitcher Peter Deleon Guerrero stopped Laolao Bay's rally with three straight strikeouts.

The Twins never recovered

from thereon, as it bagged only one run in the remaining two innings with Deleon Guerrero making a sacrifice out.

Relief pitcher J.P. Celis finished off the Twins at the top of the sixth by striking out the latter's first two batters and the fifth one, leaving two runners stranded.

Enforcers 18, Comets II 7

The Enforcers got their first victory after three games.

They recovered from a 3-6 deficit after three innings to enter the win column. The Enforcers scored six runs apiece

in the third and fifth inning and tucked in three more runs in the fourth to earn the early win via 10-run mercy rule.

Troy Laniyo led the Enforcers, as he went 3-for-4 at bat and logged three RBIs and two runs. Rikko Lizama had only one RBI, but contributed three runs, while five other Enforcers players added at least two runs apiece, as they got 12 runs off Comets II's errors.

Comets II (1-3) collapsed after a good start, as it nailed only one run off an Enforcers error at shortstop in the last three innings.

MISO Basketball League Round 1

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Kagman High School's Jesse Santos goes up for a point-blank shot after escaping the defense of Saipan Southern High School's Tyler Palacios during their game in the first round of the MISO varsity caging at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



Saipan Southern High School's Art Borromeo pulls up for a triple against a Kagman defender.



Saipan Southern High School's James Kintaro muscled his way against two Kagman defenders.



An Agape Christian School player is surrounded by Saipan Southern High School defenders.



Marianas High School's John Capuyon glides through the basket during their game against Mount Carmel School.



Mount Carmel School's William Camacho blocks Marianas High School's J.P. Iglecias.



Eucon International School's Allen Yu pulls up for an undergoal stab against Mount Carmel School's Soon Hyung Kwon.



Kagman High School's Jonathan Santos unloads a triple.



Marianas High School's J.P. Iglecias loses his balance after colliding with Saipan Southern High School's James Kintaro, left,



Saipan International School's Andrew Johnson and a teammate battle for the rebound, while a Kagman High School player stays down during their junior varsity game.



**Davis, White of US
win Olympic ice
dance gold**
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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Inquiry says
Incognito, 2 others
harassed Martin**
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lopez defends girls U18 title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mikayla Lopez clinched back-to-back girls U18 singles crown after topping the round-robin competition in the 2014 White Coconut Classic Tennis Tournament.

Lopez, winner of the 2012 N M A S A / T S L Foundation Female Student Athlete of the Year award, bagged the girls U18 tiara for the second straight time after prevailing against Alina Ishikawa, Negahr Rastguiy, and Carol Lee. The Marianas High School student, who defeated Rastguiy, Ishikawa, and Melody Johnson in last year's round-robin tournament, secured the championship this year after edging Lee, 8-5, last Monday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.



Lee faced Lopez in the title-deciding afternoon match after shutting out Ishikawa in a morning game. Lee was undefeated before she challenged Lopez, as the former rallied past Rastguiy, 8-5, in the opening week of the annual tournament. Rastguiy ended up in third place

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mikayla Lopez uses both hands to return a shot to Carol Lee during the girls U18 title match in the 2014 White Coconut Classic Tennis Tournament last Monday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Little Legals beats McDonald's



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Little Legals batter waits for the pitch from McDonald's Sunjoon Tenorio during the bottom of the fifth inning of their game in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Little Legals capitalized on McDonald's defensive lapses to take a 15-6 victory in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa

Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Little Legals (2-1) scored nine of their runs off McDonald's errors, while the remaining six were earned runs. Relief pitcher Ray-

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Enforcers still flawless in Junior League

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The JPO Enforcers kept their immaculate record in the Junior League division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball, following a 12-1 rout of the Fielders last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Kier Agda pitched in no-relief for the Enforcers in six innings, allowing only three hits and no earned run to lift his team to its fifth

win in as many games. The Enforcers ace also struck out eight batters.

Agda's steady pitching was complemented by the Enforcers' solid hitting as the division leader went 21-for-38 at bat and got eight earned runs. Catcher Shakobe Rangamar was only 2-for-4 at the plate, but had a three-run double in the fourth inning and also scored the Enforcers' fourth run in that frame. Garnet Martin went 3-for-4 at bat and contributed two RBIs, while Myles Santos had two RBIs, as his double drove Jordan Kosam and Jeff Castro

See ENFORCERS on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The JPO Enforcers huddle on the mound before their game in the Junior League division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Francisco "Ta Ko" Palacios Ballfield.